THE

WEEKLY MAGAZINE,

OR

EDINBURGH AMUSEMENT.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12. 1776.

RETROSPECTIVE VIEW *of* AFFAIRS *in the* American *Colonies*. [P. 324.]

IN the mean time, gen. Gage thought it neceſſary for the ſafety of the troops, as well as to ſecure the important poſt and town of Boſton, to fortify the neck of land, which afforded the only communication, except by water, between that town and the continent. This meaſure, however neceſſary, could not but increaſe the jealouſy, ſuſpicion, and ill-blood, which were already ſo prevalent; but was ſoon ſucceeded by another, that ſtill excited a greater alarm. The ſeaſon of the year was now arrived for the annual muſter of the militia; and the general, having probably ſome ſuſpicion of their conduct when aſſembled, or, as they pretended, being urged thereunto by thoſe ſecret adviſers and tale-bearers, to whoſe inſidious arts, and falſe information, for a long time paſt, as well as the preſent, the Americans attributed all their own calamities, and the troubles that had ariſen between both countries; however it was, he ſeized upon the ammunition and ſtores which were lodged in the provincial arſenal at Cambridge, and had them brought to Boſton. He alſo, at the ſame time, ſeized upon the powder which was lodged in the magazines at Charles-town, and ſome other places, being partly private property, and partly provincial.

This excited the moſt violent and univerſal ferment that had yet been known. The people aſſembled to the amount of ſeveral thouſands, and it was with the greateſt difficulty, that ſome of the more moderate and leading gentlemen of the country were able to reſtrain them from marching directly to Boſton, there to demand a delivery of the powder and ſtores, and in caſe of refuſal to attack the troops. A falſe report having been intentionally ſpread about the ſame time, and extended to Connecticut, in order probably to try the temper of that province, that the ſhips and troops had attacked the town of Boſton, and were then firing upon it when the pretended bearers of the news had come away; ſeveral thouſands of thoſe people immediately aſſembled in arms, and marched, with great expedition, a conſiderable diſtance, to the relief, as

they ſuppoſed, of their ſuffering neighbours, before they were convinced of the miſtake.

About this time, the governor's company of cadets, conſiſting wholly of gentlemen of Boſton, and of ſuch, in general, as had always been well affected to government, diſbanded themſelves, and returned to the general the ſtandard, with which, according to cuſtom, he had preſented them upon his arrival. This ſlight to the governor, and apparent diſreliſh to the new government, proceeded immediately from his having taken away Mr Hancock's commiſſion, who was the colonel of that corps. A col. Murray of the militia, having accepted a ſeat in the new council, 24 officers of his regiment reſigned their commiſſions in one day; ſo general was the ſpirit which was now gone forth.

The late meaſure of ſeizing the powder, as well as the fortifications which were erecting on Boſton Neck, occaſioned the holding of an aſſembly of delegates from all the towns of the county of Suffolk, of which Boſton is the county town and capital. In this aſſembly a great number of reſolutions were paſſed, ſome of which militated more ſtrongly with the authority of the new legiſlature, than any that had yet appeared. They are, however, introduced by a declaration of allegiance: but they alſo declare it to be their duty, by all lawful means, to defend their civil and religious rights and liberties; that the late acts are groſs infractions of thoſe rights; and that no obedience is due from that province, to either, or any part of thoſe acts; but that they ought to be rejected as the wicked attempts of an abandoned adminiſtration to eſtabliſh a deſpotic government. They engaged that the county ſhould ſupport and bear harmleſs all ſheriffs, jurors, and other perſons who ſhould ſuffer proſecution for not acting under the preſent unconſtitutional judges, or carrying into execution any orders of their courts; and reſolved, that thoſe who had accepted ſeats at the council-board had violated the duty they owed to their country, and that if they did not vacate them within a ſhort limited time, they ſhould be conſidered as obſtinate and incorrigible enemies to their country.

They alſo paſſed reſolutions againſt the fortifications at Boſton Neck; the Quebec bill; for the ſuſpenſion of commerce; for the encouragement of arts and manufactures; for the holding of a provincial congreſs; and to pay all due reſpect and ſubmiſſion to the meaſures which ſhould be recommended by the continental congreſs. They recommended to the people to perfect themſelves in the art of war, and for that purpoſe, that the militia ſhould appear under arms once every week. That as it had been reported, that ſeveral gentlemen who had rendered themſelves conſpicuous by contending for the violated rights of their country, were to be apprehended, in caſe ſo audacious a meaſure ſhould be carried into execution, they recommend, that all the officers of ſo tyrannical a government ſhould be ſeized, and kept in ſafe cuſtody, until the former were reſtored to their friends and families.

Then followed a recommendation, which in the preſent ſtate of things amounted to a peremptory command, to the collectors of the taxes, and all other receivers and holders of the public money, not to pay it as uſual to the treaſurer; but to detain it in their hands, until the civil government of the province was placed on a conſtitutional foundation; or until it ſhould be otherwiſe ordered by the provincial congreſs. They, however, declare, that notwithſtanding the many inſults and oppreſſions which they moſt ſenſibly feel and reſent, they are determined to act merely on the defenſive, ſo long as ſuch conduct may be vindicated by reaſon, and the principles of ſelf-preſervation. They conclude by exhorting the people to reſtrain their reſentments, to avoid all riots and diſorderly proceedings, as being deſtructive of all good government; and by a ſteady, manly, uniform, and perſevering oppoſition, to convince their enemies, that, in a conteſt ſo important, in a cauſe ſo ſolemn, *their conduct ſhould be ſuch as to merit the approbation of the wiſe, and the admiration of the brave and free, of every age, and of every country.*

They then appointed [Sept. 9.] a committee to wait upon the governor, with a remonſtrance againſt the fortifying of Boſton Neck; in which they declare, that though the loyal people of that county think themſelves oppreſſed by ſome late acts of the Britiſh parliament, and are reſolved, by *divine aſſiſtance*, never to ſubmit to them, they have no inclination to commence war

with his majeſty's troops. They impute the preſent extraordinary ferment in the minds of the people, beſides the new fortification, to the ſeizing of the powder, to the planting of cannon on the Neck, and to the inſults and abuſe offered to paſſengers by the ſoldiers, in which, they ſay, they have been encouraged by ſome of the officers; and conclude, by declaring, that nothing leſs than a removal or redreſs of thoſe grievances, can place the inhabitants of the county in that ſituation of peace and tranquillity, which every free ſubject ought to enjoy. In this addreſs they totally diſclaimed every wiſh and idea of independency, and attributed all the preſent troubles to miſinformation at home, and the ſiniſter deſigns of particular perſons.

To this addreſs gen. Gage anſwered, that he had no intention to prevent the egreſs and regreſs of any perſon to and from the town of Boſton; that he would ſuffer none under his command to injure the perſon or property of any of his majeſty's ſubjects; but that it was his duty to preſerve the peace, and to prevent ſurprize; and that no uſe would be made of the cannon, unleſs their hoſtile proceedings ſhould render it neceſſary.

Before public affairs had arrived at their preſent alarming ſtate, the governor, by the advice of the new council, had iſſued writs for the holding of a general aſſembly, which was to meet in the beginning of October; but the events that afterwards took place, and the heat and violence which every where prevailed, together with the reſignation of ſo great a number of the new mandamus counſellors, as deprived the ſmall remainder of all efficacy, made him think it expedient to countermand the writs by a proclamation, and to defer the holding of the aſſembly to a fitter ſeaſon. The legality of the proclamation was however called in queſtion, and the elections every where took place without regard to it. The new members accordingly met at Salem, purſuant to the precepts; but having waited a day, without the governor, or any ſubſtitute for him attending, to adminiſter the oaths, and open the ſeſſion, they voted themſelves into a provincial congreſs, to be joined by ſuch others as had been, or ſhould be elected for that purpoſe; after which, Mr Hancock, ſo obnoxious to the governor's party, was choſen chairman, and they adjourned to the town of Concord, about 20 miles from Boſton.

Among their earlieſt proceedings [Oct. 11.], they appointed a committee to wait upon the governor with a remonſtrance, in which they apologized for their preſent meeting, by repreſenting, that the diſtreſſed and miſerable ſtate of the colony had rendered it indiſpenſibly neceſſary to collect the wiſdom of the province by their delegates in that congreſs; thereby to concert ſome adequate remedy to prevent impending ruin, and to provide for the public ſafety. They then expreſs the grievous apprehenſions of the people from the meaſures now purſuing. They aſſert, that even the rigour of the Boſton port bill is exceeded by the manner in which it is carried into execution. They complain of the late laws, calculated not only to abridge the people of their rights, but to licence murders; of the number of troops in the capital, which were daily increaſing by new acceſſions drawn from every part of the continent; together with the formidable and hoſtile preparations on Boſton Neck; all tending to endanger the lives, liberties, and properties, not only of the people of Boſton, but of the province in general. They conclude by adjuring the general, as he regards his majeſty's honour and intereſt, the dignity and happineſs of the empire, and the peace and welfare of the province, to deſiſt immediately from the conſtruction of the fortreſs at the entrance into Boſton, and to reſtore that paſs to its natural ſtate.

The general was involved in ſome difficulty in giving them an anſwer, as he could not acknowledge the legality of their aſſembling. The neceſſity of the times however prevailed. He expreſſed great indignation that an idea ſhould be formed, that the lives, liberties, or property of any people, except avowed enemies, ſhould be in danger from Engliſh troops. Britain, he ſaid, could never harbour the black deſign of wantonly deſtroying or enſlaving any people; and notwithſtanding the enmity ſhewn to the troops, by with-holding from them almoſt every neceſſary for their preſervation, they had not yet diſcovered the reſentment which might juſtly be expected to ariſe from ſuch hoſtile treatment. He reminded the congreſs, that while they complain of alterations made in their charter by acts of parliament,

they are themſelves, by their preſent aſſembling, ſubverting that charter, and now acting in direct violation of their own conſtitution; he therefore warned them of the rocks they were upon, and to deſiſt from ſuch illegal and unconſtitutional proceedings.

By this time Boſton was become a place of refuge to all thoſe friends of the new government who thought it neceſſary to perſevere in avowing their ſentiments. The commiſſioners of the cuſtoms, with all their officers, had alſo thought it neceſſary, towards the concluſion of the preceding month, to abandon their head-quarters at Salem, and to remove the apparatus of a cuſtom-houſe to a place which an act of parliament had proſcribed from all trade. Thus the new acts of parliament on one hand, and the reſiſtance of the people on the other, equally joined to annihilate all appearance of government, legiſlation, judicial proceedings, and commercial regulations.

Upon the approach of winter, the general had ordered temporary barracks to be erected for the troops, partly, perhaps, for ſafety, and partly to prevent the diſorders and miſchiefs, which, in the preſent ſtate and temper of both, muſt be the unavoidable conſequences of their being quartered upon the inhabitants. Such, however, was the diſlike to their being provided for in any manner, that the ſelect-men and the committees obliged the workmen to quit their employment, though the money for their labour would have been paid by the crown. The general had as little ſucceſs in endeavouring to procure carpenters from New-York, ſo that it was with the greateſt difficulty he could get thoſe temporary lodgments erected; and having endeavoured alſo to procure ſome winter covering from the latter city, the offer to purchaſe it was preſented to every merchant there, who to a man refuſed complying with any part of the order, and returned for anſwer, "that they never would ſupply any article for the benefit of men who were ſent as enemies to their country."

Every thing now tended to increaſe the mutual apprehenſion, diſtruſt, and animoſity between government and the people. Thoſe of Boſton either were, or pretended to be, under continual terror, from the apprehenſions of immediate danger, to their properties, liberties, and even their lives. They were in the hands of an armed force whom they abhored, and who equally deteſted them. The ſoldiers, on the other hand, conſidered themſelves in the midſt of enemies, and were equally apprehenſive of danger from within and without. Each ſide profeſſed the beſt intentions in the world for itſelf, and ſhewed the greateſt ſuſpicion of the other. In this ſtate of doubt and profeſſion, things were rendered ſtill worſe, by a meaſure, which did not ſeem of ſufficient importance in its conſequences to juſtify its being hazarded at ſo critical a ſeaſon. This was the landing of a detachment of ſailors by night from the ſhips of war in the harbour, who ſpiked up all the cannon upon one of the principal batteries belonging to the town.

In the mean time the provincial congreſs, notwithſtanding the cautions given, and dangers held out by the governor, not only continued their aſſembly, but their reſolutions having acquired, from the diſpoſition and promptitude of the people, all the weight and efficacy of laws, they ſeemed to have founded in effect ſomething like a new and independent government. Under the ſtile of recommendation and advice, they ſettled the militia; they regulated the public treaſures; and they provided arms. They appointed a day of public thankſgiving, on which, among other enumerated bleſſings, a particular acknowledgement was to be made to the Almighty, for the union which ſo remarkably prevailed in all the colonies.

Theſe and ſimilar meaſures [Nov. 10.], induced gen. Gage to iſſue a proclamation, in which, though the direct terms are avoided, they are charged with proceedings, which are generally underſtood as nearly tantamount to treaſon and rebellion. The inhabitants of the province were accordingly, in the king's name, prohibited from complying, in any degree, with the requiſitions, recommendations, directions, or reſolves of that unlawful aſſembly.

[*To be continued.*]

For the WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

A LETTER *from* CLEMENT XIV. *the laſt* POPE, *to an* ENGLISH GENTLEMAN.

[P. 327.]

I SELDOM ſee a perſon of your ſenſe a dupe to the modern philoſophy:

Your knowledge ought to ſecure you from its ſophiſms, which would reduce us to the condition of brutes.

If there be a God, as nature points it out every where, there is a religion. If there be a religion, it cannot be but ſublime, and as antient as the world, as it flows from a Being infinite and eternal; and if it has theſe characters, it is without doubt Chriſtianity; and if it be Chriſtianity, we muſt abſolutely acknowledge it as divine, and adhere to it with our heart and mind.

Is it credible that God framed this ſplendid world only to feed his eyes with the ſight of a multitude of men and animals, that are to be jumbled together, as having all the ſame deſtiny; and that this intelligence that reſides in us combines, calculates, goes beyond the earth, ſoars above the firmament, recalls all paſt ages, pierces into ages to come; which, in ſhort, has an idea of what is to laſt for ever; ſhould only beam forth a moment, in order to vaniſh afterwards in a light vapour.

What is this voice that cries within ourſelves, and at every moment, that you are born for great things? What are theſe deſires which renew continually, and which make you ſenſible that there is nothing in this world that can ſatisfy your heart.

Man is like a diſeaſed perſon labouring under his pains as long as he is diſtant from God; and the light of his reaſon which he ſtifles leaves him in the midſt of darkneſs, which creates horror.

The ſame truth that certifies to you your own exiſtence, I mean this inward teſtimony of yourſelf, certifies to you the exiſtence of God; and it cannot give you a lively idea of it without imprinting in you the idea of religion. The worſhip that we pay to the Supreme Being is ſo much connected with him, that our heart is not ſatisfied but when it pays him homage, and when we conform ourſelves to the order that he has eſtabliſhed.

If there be a God, he ought neceſſarily to be beneficent; if he is beneficent, you ought to thank him for his benefits. Exiſtence, as health, does not abſolutely proceed from yourſelf. Twenty-five years ago you had no exiſtence, and all of a ſudden you have become a body organized, enriched with a mind that commands your body as maſter, and leads it as it pleaſes.

That reflection engages you to ſeek the author of life; and you will find him within yourſelf: when you are willing to ſound yourſelf, and examine all that ſurrounds you, none of theſe objects can boaſt of being parts of his ſubſtance; for God is one, indiviſible, it not being poſſible to identify himſelf with elements.

If the religion that he has eſtabliſhed has taken different forms; if it was carried to perfection by the coming of the Meſſiah, it is that God who has acted with it as with our reaſon, which at firſt is only a feeble light, and which, being developed afterwards by degrees, appears in its full luſtre.

Beſides, does it become man to queſtion God on his conduct? Is he intitled to rule his ways, and preſcribe to him his manner of operation? God manifeſts himſelf to us all, but reſerves to himſelf always the right of acting as a maſter, becauſe all is ſubjected to him. Was he to manifeſt clearly to us upon earth his deſigns; if the myſteries which aſtoniſh and thunder-ſtrike us were unfolded to us, this would be the intuitive viſion that he reſerves to us after this life, and it would be needleſs to die. Full knowledge is only reſerved for heaven. *Cognoſcam ſicut cognitus ſum:* "I ſhall then know God as I ſhall be known by him:" and we want to anticipate that moment, without thinking that it is regulated by a divine wiſdom, and that our buſineſs is to ſubmit and adore. The incredulous man changes nothing in the deſigns of God: when he dares riſe againſt him, he enters even into his plan; this vaſt plan where the *ill* concurs with the *good*, for the harmony of this world, and for the happineſs of the next.

Nature and religion derive equally from God; and they have both, though in a manner quite different, their myſteries and incomprehenſibilities; and by the ſame reaſon that we do not deny the exiſtence of nature, though her operations are often concealed from us, we cannot nor ought not to deny that of religion, notwithſtanding its darkneſs.

There is nothing here below that has not a dark ſide, becauſe our ſoul, weighed down with a body that darkens and burdens, could not be capable of ſeeing all. She is upon earth in a kind of infancy, and ſhe requires light in proportion to her ſight, till death relieves her of the weight that loads her. She is

like a young bird that pants and chirps in its neſt till it requires ſtrength to ſpring in the air, and fly.

The gradations of religion are admirable in the eyes of a true philoſopher. He ſees religion at firſt as a dawn that lowrs from the boſom of chaos; afterwards as the Aurora that announces the day; at laſt he perceives the day, but overcaſt with clouds; and he finds that it will not be perfectly ſerene, and in its full meridian, till the moment wherein the heavens ſhall be opened.

Has the incredulous man, who finds fault with our religion, a peculiar religion of his own which will aſcertain that the one in which we believe is abſolutely chimerical? But in what time, and in what place did this ſecret light ſhine to him? Was it in the time wherein he was domineered, and abſorbed by his paſſions? Was it amidſt public diverſions and pleaſures, wherein he commonly ſpends his life?

It is aſtoniſhing, Sir, how men ſhould lay aſide all authority of tradition, elude all the ſtrength of the cleareſt teſtimonies, to truſt blindly to two or three perſons who give them leſſons on incredulity. They admit of no inſpiration; and yet they look on theſe inſtructors as if they were inſpired. From hence it is eaſy to conclude that paſſions are the ſource of incredulity. They abhor a religion that is irkſome, when they want to follow the torrent of vice, and to ſwim amidſt the waters of a world full of foamy waves.

Chriſtianity is a picture drawn by the hand of God; and this he himſelf preſented to men, when it was only roughly ſketched out, till the time wherein Jeſus Chriſt came and finiſhed it; but he will give it the beauties and colours in eternity. Then religion will be the only object that will fix our attention, becauſe it will be in the eſſence of God himſelf, making a whole with him, according to the expreſſion of St Auguſtine.

This ſtep is conformable to the time that conſtitutes this life, and which only exiſts by ſucceſſion. Thus God has varied the forms of religion, becauſe we are in a world that varies; and he will fix it in an immutable manner in heaven, becauſe no change is known there. Theſe combinations, and theſe proportions, ſhew the wiſdom of the Supreme Being. Religion being for man, he intended that it ſhould follow the progreſſions of man according to his different ways of exiſting.

Nothing of all this is ſeen when one is earthly; and you would judge as I do if you was diſengaged from all theſe pleaſures, and all theſe riches, which immerſe you too much into matter in ſpite of yourſelf. Chriſtianity is ſpirit and life; and it is deviating prodigiouſly from it to fix one's thoughts on bodily objects. Souls don't become enlightened at death, but becauſe they have no more a body that beſets and darkens them. True philoſophy effectuates what death will do: it diſengages man from all that is carnal: but modern philoſophy produces no ſuch effect; it knows no exiſtence but matter, and looks on metaphyſics as a ſcience purely chimerical, though it is more certain than phyſics, which have no ſupport but from the ſenſes.

I ſhall not enter into the proofs of religion, becauſe they have been ſo often and ſo well handled by eminent pens, that I ſhould do nothing but repeat them. Jeſus Chriſt is the principle and end of all things, the key of all the myſteries of grace and nature; ſo that it is not ſurpriſing if a perſon ſhould bewilder himſelf in a thouſand abſurd ſyſtems without that grand compaſs. I can give you no reaſon in the phyſical ſyſtem, nor in the moral, ſaid the famous cardinal Bembo, if you do not admit Jeſus Chriſt. The creation of this world is even inexplicable, incomprehenſible, yea impoſſible, if it was not made for the *incarnate Word*; for God can have no other object in all that he does, but what is infinite. This is the reaſon why Jeſus Chriſt is called by St John the *Alpha* and the *Omega*, *the beginning and the end*; and the Apoſtle tells us, that the ages have been made by him: *Per quem fecit et ſæcula.*

Study thoroughly that Man-God as much as a creature is capable, and you will find in him all the treaſures of knowledge and wiſdom; you will perceive that he is the firſt link of the chain that ties all things viſible and inviſible; and you will acknowledge him for that divine breath that raiſes up in our hearts the ſeeds of juſtice and holineſs.

The incredulous man can never give a ſatisfactory anſwer, if the queſtion ſhould be put to him, Who is this Jeſus

Chriſt?—this man ſo ſimple, ſo divine, ſo ſublime, and ſo abject; ſo pure in the courſe of his life, ſo great at the time of his paſſion, and ſo magnanimous at his death? In the mean time, an anſwer ought to be given without any ſubterfuge or evaſion. If he is only a man, he is an impoſtor; for he has ſaid himſelf that he was God; and in that caſe what becomes of theſe ſublime virtues, what becomes of his goſpel, that forbids even the leaſt equivocation? and what reaſon can we aſſign for his victories, and thoſe of his Apoſtles, in all parts of the world? If he be a God, what ought we to think of his religion, and of thoſe who oppoſe it?

Ah! Sir, this ought to be your knowledge, and the object of your thorough inquiry, preferably to all the profane ſciences to which you apply. Sciences which will have an end: *Linguæ ceſſabunt, ſcientia deſtructur:* and there will only be the knowledge of Jeſus Chriſt, which will ſwim over the ſurface wherein time and the elements will be ſwallowed up.

Conſider yourſelf, and this conſideration alone will lead you neceſſarily to truth. The leaſt movement of your finger indicates to you the action of God on your perſon; this action announces to you a Providence; this Providence warns you that you are dear to the Creator; and this warning will lead you from truth to truth till you come to thoſe which are revealed.

If you are neither the creator of yourſelf, nor your laſt end, of neceſſity you ought to ſeek him who has both theſe qualities; and who can he be but God?

Religion certainly muſt always come off victorious in the eyes of thoſe who have principles. To know its veracity, it ſuffices to go back to its ſource; analyze it, and follow it to the point where it terminates; but the impious diſfigure and diſhonour it, and put a ſkeleton in its place. I am not therefore ſurpriſed, if thoſe who have no education, and who ſwear on the word and reputation of the faſhionable free-thinkers, ſhould be afraid.

I expect, Sir, from the uprightneſs of your mind, and your extenſive genius, an opinion more ſolid than that which you have hitherto entertained of the Chriſtian religion. Lay aſide all the ſyſtems and opinions which you have unhappily imbibed. Be a new man. Enter into the path that tradition will open to you, and you will judge quite differently. Appeal to yourſelf for your prejudices; for hitherto it is not yourſelf who have judged: For me, I act according to the dictates of my heart and mind, when I aſſure you of all the affection with which I ſhall be, all my life, your ſervant, &c.

GANGANELLI.

Rome, Nov. 29. 1768.

Looſe Hints in regard to Manufactures.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

I AM always happy to hear of a new branch of trade being introduced among us, and think thoſe who exert their influence to promote our manufactures have great merit. Induſtry, properly directed, is the ſource of opulence: idleneſs, or labour miſapplied, the diſgrace and ruin of a country. When the firſt prevails, the inhabitants live comfortably; where the laſt are indulged, poverty and all its conſequent evils are their portion. In ſome parts of Scotland the people are induſtrious, and their induſtry is applied to proper objects; in others they are lazy, and in many their labour is unprofitably employed. The firſt are uſeful, not to themſelves only, but the cauſe of great benefit to the neighbourhood, and their country in general: the ſecond are a dead weight upon ſociety, mere conſumers of the fruits of the earth; and, where admonition does not prevail, ſhould be taught, by the rod, the reaſonableneſs of the apoſtolic precept, "He that will not work ſhould not eat." The third ſort ſhould be better directed.

It is highly reproachful to the people of this country to have ſo long depended upon England for great part of their cloathing, their furniture, and other the moſt eſſential neceſſaries of life *; and that the little money among us ſhould

* *We annually import from that country butter, cheeſe, flour, peaſe, porter, cyder, ſugar, ſoap, hops,* &c. *to a very great amount; and in fact our ſhop-keepers are little more than the humble retailers of the Engliſh; while very little care is taken to ſuperſede the neceſſity of importing theſe articles by the improvement of our own commodities.*

have been drained to ſupport the Engliſh manufacturer; to enable him to become an adventurer, and give long credit to the Americans; while our own artificers have been diſcountenanced, the improvement of our flocks and fields neglected, and nothing thought elegant that was not of foreign growth or manufacture. If we conſider how generally Engliſh broad cloths are now worn in Scotland, we muſt conclude that an immenſe ſum is annually laid out in that article, excluſive of what we pay for ſhalloons, buttons, hair, ſilk, &c. Indeed one almoſt wonders where the money ſhould be found to pay for them. Were this expence incurred by people of rank and fortune only, the evil would be leſs felt; but, from the higheſt peer to the meaneſt farmer or mechanic, few chuſe to appear at church or market in the manufacture of their own family or country. I don't ſay, however, that this is always, or even generally from a predilection to Engliſh goods: I believe it is in many caſes owing to an opinion, that the Engliſh cloths not only look better, but alſo come cheaper than they could be manufactured in this country. In ſupport of this, I have heard it obſerved, that the broad cloths hitherto made in Scotland have generally been ſold at a higher rate than cloths of the ſame breadth and apparent fineneſs made in England, eſpecially thoſe of a high price. It has alſo been obſerved of that ſpecies of narrow cloth called *Sey*, formerly more in uſe than at preſent, that, though it generally wore well, it came dear. All this may be true; but let it be conſidered, that the few attempts hitherto made to introduce that manufacture had not the general countenance that an attempt of the ſame nature is now like to meet with, when thoſe of the moſt diſtinguiſhed rank and merit in the kingdom ſeem well diſpoſed to promote the branch. With equal prudence in the undertakers, equal attention to the manufacture, and the ſame degree of honour and integrity in the manufacturer, there can be no material odds either in the quality of the cloth, or the expence of making it, here or in England. In regard to our ley, it is frequently made of wool too valuable for coarſe cloth, and a high price is paid for working it; it therefore muſt come dear, and will appear ſtill dearer, when conſidered as ill dreſſed, or rather not dreſſed at all.

I will do my countrymen the juſtice to believe, that few of them would prefer an Engliſh cloth to a Scots one upon equal terms; and, ſhould ſuch a manufacture be effectually eſtabliſhed among us, I am perſuaded they are generally better patriots than to inſiſt for the ſame high finiſhing in the cloth at firſt, which, from a little practice, and the ingenuity of our artificers, they may ſoon after hope. Where manufactures have been long and ſucceſsfully eſtabliſhed, the artificers become expert in their different branches; by habit they acquire a ſlight of working; and, with much leſs time and trouble, give their goods a finiſhing, or high poliſh, which it requires ſome practice and great attention in others to imitate: but though this pleaſes the eye, it is of no importance to the cloth: Indeed, by too ſtrict an attention to the dreſſing, it is often damaged, to the great detriment of the wearer. Though the fineſt wool and beſt ſpun yarn may be hurt by future unſkilful operations in the courſe of the manufacture, yet, upon the quality of the firſt, and the texture of the laſt, the ſtrength and goodneſs of the cloth chiefly depends. The manufacturer, therefore, ſhould be extremely careful in theſe articles; to ſee that his wool be well ſorted, and of a quality juſtly adapted to the intended fineneſs of his cloth; that the yarn be evenly ſpun and well ſized; that it have a proper twiſt, and be accurately cleared from ſuch as may have been damaged in the ſpinning or otherwiſe. When accidents do happen (and it is not in human prudence intirely to prevent them), a ſenſible man will not be ſurpriſed at them in a new manufacture: A good-natured one will readily forgive them: If he obſerves a wire-drawn rent in his coat, he will ſay, "This, I know, has given the maker of the cloth pain: he will be more careful for the future."

In their infancy manufactures labour under many and great diſadvantages; the undertakers muſt employ ſtrangers at an advanced price, and pay high premiums for teaching apprentices: by the increaſed price of proviſions, theſe muſt have high board wages; and it is well if, in two or three years, they do more than work for their board. Some of them die, others turn out vicious; and

very frequently the journeymen, who have been paid for inſtructing them, keep them back in their learning, that they may not leſſen their own importance. Theſe, and a thouſand other inconveniencies, are unavoidable in the eſtabliſhment of new branches; and therefore, without the hearty good-will of his fellow-citizens, the manufacturer will in vain hope to benefit himſelf, or do credit to his country. It has certainly contributed much to the perfection of the Engliſh manufactures, that they are what we may call ſtationary: Different counties have their different manufactures, and each vigorouſly proſecutes its own; and when, in the ſame county, different manufactures are carried on, as in Yorkſhire or others, they are very rarely mixed in the ſame town or diſtrict. Sheffield is as much diſtinguiſhed for its hard-ware as Leeds and Halifax are for their woolen-manufactures. Thus the capital manufacture becomes the great and leading object, while others, occaſionally carried on in the county or diſtrict, are looked upon but as bye-jobs, in which the credit of the public is not concerned. I am ſorry to obſerve, that in moſt parts of Scotland this obvious advantage has been too little attended to.

Another thing which has contributed much to the enlargement of their trade is their dealing upon moderate profits, rightly judging that five *per cent.* upon ten thouſand pounds is better than ten *per cent.* upon four thouſand pounds. The lower their goods come to foreign markets, or to the retailer at home, with the more confidence may they inſiſt upon regular payments; the ſooner may they hope to have their orders repeated. To this let me add, that they ſpare no expence to enlarge their dealings. They don't manufacture or lay in a ſtock of goods to lie on their ſhelves till ſtrangers accidentally find the way to their warehouſes: they don't ſatisfy themſelves with advertiſing in the public papers, that ſuch a one in ſuch a ſtreet ſells broad cloths of the beſt kinds, and at the loweſt prices, but ſend their ſervants with patterns of their goods to the remoteſt corners of the iſland, where they take orders, and receive money. Thus they become (if I may ſo ſpeak) perſonally acquainted in all corners of the country: they acquire a general knowledge of the characters and circumſtances of thoſe who deal with them, and conſequently are qualified to judge when it may be proper to indulge an honeſt man, though his payments be ſlow, and when to puſh one of a ſuſpicious character. When obliged to compound a debt, from their knowledge of the inſolvent perſon's character, they can either give him up, or indulge him with a freſh credit.

I have been often hurt by the illiberal abuſe thrown upon Engliſh riders, for no cauſe earthly but becauſe they are active in the ſervice of thoſe who employ them. "They drain the country of its caſh." Very true: But whoſe money do they carry off? Their own. They cannot compel us to deal with them. If we chuſe it, we certainly ought to pay for the goods we had. If our pride or indolence reſtrain us from manufacturing our own apparel, are we not much obliged to thoſe who take that drudgery upon them? If they muſt manage the greaſy wool from the fleece to the lapping-preſs, very juſt it is that they ſhould reap the benefit of their long labour. Though no man wiſheth better to the intereſts of Scotland than I do, I wiſh them only to be promoted upon national principles and probable views of ſucceſs. If the public in general ſignify its intention of encouraging the manufacture of broad cloths, I ſhould think the manufacturer had little to fear, provided only that he can ſell his goods on a par with the Engliſh dealers, and reſolves to allow the ſame time, and to furniſh them at the ſame price to the retailers. In trade, as in every thing elſe, raſh and indigeſted plans produce bad effects. As they generally fail of ſucceſs, they naturally prejudice prudent people againſt future attempts; and thereby ſtrengthen the evil they were meant to remove. I heartily wiſh, therefore, that every obſtacle to the laudable deſign of introducing the manufacture of broad cloth among us may be ſedately conſidered; that every difficulty may be foreſeen and provided againſt; and, above all, that none but men of knowledge and probity may attempt to put it in execution. Such only merit public encouragement; for of ſuch only may the country hope for credit or advantage.

Yours &c. F. D.

Abbot's-Inch, Aug. 12.

For the WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

The FREETHINKER. No. III.

IN order to ſhew that infidelity and ſcepticiſm really have their origin in narrowneſs of ſentiment, it will be neceſſary to take a ſhort ſurvey of the gradual proceſs by which the mind arrives at truth: And here we will endeavour to fix that point, equally remote from enthuſiaſm on the one hand, and from infidelity on the other, which few have been able to reach, and ſtill fewer, when they have reached it, have ſo balanced their minds as not to verge beyond it, and decline into the path which leads to the horrid wilds of atheiſtical opinion.

Such are the circumſtances in which human nature is placed, that, from the moment we are capable of receiving ſenſations from external objects, we are fated to be the dupes of *prejudice*. If, from the moment of birth, as ſome have imagined, the ſoul receives impreſſions from the ſurrounding objects, though, from the weakneſs of the retentive faculty, the greater part of theſe is for ever loſt; yet, even in this early period, we may conſider the foundation of prejudices as already laid. When the rational powers juſt begin to appear; while they are not yet ſufficiently vigorous to judge of objects and opinions according to the truth of things, we are ever liable to be deceived by appearances, from our ignorance of the new ſtate of exiſtence which we have ſo lately commenced. As the young mind begins to unfold itſelf, and to be converſant with a greater number of objects, the deceptions increaſe; and the empire of prejudice is fully eſtabliſhed in that impetuous period, when the exerciſe of reaſon gives place to the prepoſſeſſions of ungovernable paſſion, by which the mind is expoſed to more groſs deceits.

But, as if theſe unavoidable and natural attacks of prejudice were not ſufficiently effectual to miſlead the tender mind, education, whoſe province it ought to be to root them out, and to teach us to form new judgments of things, often aſſiſts to blind the ſoul, and to confirm error by habit, as if implanted by the hand of nature. Thus, perhaps, inſtead of enlightening our minds with an extenſive view of truth, thoſe who are entruſted with our education employ themſelves in inſtilling into our heads the unintelligible jargon of enthuſiaſts, and the contracted notions of the ſuperſtitious mind; or, perhaps, on the other hand, by indulging us in open licentiouſneſs, by lulling us into ſecurity in the hopes that our extravagancies may paſs unpuniſhed, they extinguiſh our natural ſenſe of right and wrong, and thereby lay the foundations of a courſe of immorality, which flies to the feeble reſource of ſcepticiſm to quiet the remonſtrances of conſcience.

To mention no more, another copious ſource of prejudice is the influence of cuſtom. Whatever has acquired its ſanction is admitted without examining its juſtice, or queſtioning its propriety. From it abſurdity itſelf hath acquired that importance which truth alone ought to confer; and by it vice has been ſanctified, and conſidered as equally amiable with virtue. By this the true nature of things has been totally altered, and the dictates of common-ſenſe have been forced to yield to the laws of depraved habit.

Amidſt ſuch a variety of prejudices, which aſſume the direction of our minds before we are able to judge for ourſelves, what wonder is it that all our opinions are replete with contradictions to truth, and our conduct diſgraced by their pernicious influence?

It is the glorious province of true philoſophy to extricate the mind from this chaos of wrong ideas, received upon firſt impreſſions. By her the ſoul is freed from the ſhackles of prejudice, and allowed to roam at large in the fair regions of truth. When we have arrived at the full exerciſe of our rational powers, we begin to ſuſpect the propriety of all our former ideas; we ſubject them to the inveſtigation of reaſon, and reject with diſdain every thing which bears not the teſt of truth. Every thing appears to us in a new light. Whether we direct our inquiries to the qualities of our own minds, here we are delighted with the diſcovery of a fertile tract, to which we were hitherto ſtrangers. We admire the regularity of its operations, and the extent of its powers: or, if we turn our eyes towards the external world, we are amazed at the numberleſs beauties with which it is ſtored, but which we had hitherto been incapable of reliſhing: or, if we turn our attention to the conduct of Providence, we muſt admire that wiſdom which is diſplayed in all its ope-

rations, and the uniformity which pervades all its meaſures. Where-ever we turn our eyes, we perceive new inſtances of the power, wiſdom, and goodneſs of the ſovereign Ruler of the univerſe.

But here let us check the career of philoſophical reſearch. Let us not attempt to ſcan the infinite ways of God; nor let us imagine that our feeble minds can graſp the whole ſyſtem of divine adminiſtration. What we cannot fully comprehend let us admire in ſilence, fully ſatisfied that divine wiſdom will direct all its meaſures to the final advantage of the univerſe: for the powers of the human mind evidently have certain limits aſſigned them by the great Creator of all: The ſoul has certain bounds, beyond which her faculties cannot ſoar; and if ſhe attempts to exert herſelf any farther, ſhe is bewildered in impenetrable obſcurity.

To find this golden mean—this ſummit of true philoſophy, and here to reſt ſatisfied, is the genuine characteriſtic of a liberal and noble mind.—To attempt to plan out to ourſelves a complete ſyſtem of the adminiſtration of the univerſe—to endeavour to account for every thing, whether within the reach of our faculties or not, is the mark of a weak and narrow ſoul, which is under the guidance of falſe philoſophy. A perſon of this turn, when he has got ſuch a ſmattering of philoſophy as is barely ſufficient to initiate him in the wild myſteries of hypotheſis, vainly thinks that no difficulty is too hard for him to ſolve. He conſiders true philoſophy as a ſphere too confined for his movements, and ſallies forth with exultation into the inextricable mazes of theory. When he endeavours to account for the ways of Providence, he finds the number of cauſes, which we can with any certainty trace, by far too few to explain the facts which fall under our notice. If he places an intelligent Being at the head of the univerſe, ſeveral circumſtances occur to him in the adminiſtration of Providence, which, to his narrow mind, ſeem to arraign infinite wiſdom;—ſeveral incidents happen which ſeem to controul the power, or to call in queſtion the goodneſs of the Supreme Being. This hypotheſis then he rejects, and in place of a wiſe, intelligent Being, he ſubſtitutes *Chance*, a capricious being, the iſſue of his own brain, and no where exiſting in nature. The irregularity of action, aſcribed to this imaginary being, he reckons ſufficient to account for the ſeeming inconſiſtencies of the ways of God; and its fortuitous movements he holds as an adequate cauſe for every poſſible effect. He is ſo dazzled with the beauty of his theory, that he is blind to every inſtance of harmony and order in the univerſe; much leſs does he think of accounting for the apparent irregularities of nature, by conſidering all—even the moſt unaccountable events, as tending to promote the final intereſt of the whole.

The PLEASURES *of* POVERTY; *Or, Adventures in a* COFFEE-HOUSE.

AS I ſtept into a coffee-houſe the other day to eat my ſlice of bread and butter, and take my doctor, I ſat myſelf down immediately oppoſite a fat figure of a man, who, with his hands tucked under his periwig to ſupport his head, was ſnoring away in the ſolidity of ſleep, while a diſh of coffee ſtood ſmoking under his noſe, and a plate with butter, and a roll upon it, in vain inviting his mouth. Let not the reader utterly deteſt me, if I ſhould honeſtly confeſs the plain truth: upon putting my hand into my pocket, I made a certain diſcovery that made it adviſeable for me to forbear calling for my doctor; ſo I contented myſelf with feaſting upon the news of the morning. It is a ſtrange thing that Nature will attack a man at the moſt unſeaſonable periods. The appetites are ſometimes very ill-bred, and will teaze one without either conſidering time or place. The peruſal of a paragraph is a meagre breakfaſt; and I really own, I could have been very glad of mere animal gratifications. Juſt at this criſis I caſt my eye upon the ſleeper. "Here's a fellow now (ſaid I) falls faſt aſleep over his coffee, and, if he continues to doſe much longer, it will be actually deſtroyed and good for nothing. Suppoſe now I was to do him the good-natured office of taking it off before it is ſpoiled?" I was actually, though involuntarily, proceeding to the cup and plate, when the proprietor of their contents opened upon me a pair of large, ſomnific, ſtupid eyes, and called the waiter to take away that d—'d cold ſtuff, for that he could not eat and drink ſo ſoon after his nap: he paid for what he did not enjoy, and was going to

waddle away. Never was I ſo tempted in my life to any thing, as to deſire he would make a compliment of the ſaid d—'d cold ſtuff to me. While this thought was in motion, an ill-ſhaped, bandied-legg'd, little, Jew-looking fellow came to the box, and took out of his pocket a large canvaſs purſe, emptying, without any ceremony, its golden contents upon the table. I was miſerable enough to have all theſe treaſures within five inches of my fingers ends, and yet, though every one of them itched, I dared not extend my hand. I was almoſt ready to tell theſe two honeſt gentlemen, that five guineas would be the making of me for ever; but ſhame, and a knowledge of the world, got the better even of hunger and other ſoliciting wants; and ſo I only bit my nails the harder, and the nearer to the quick, while the fellow was telling the caſh. After it was done, the ſleeper gathered up about 200 l. careleſsly, gave the purſe a twiſt, and put it with an air of inſolence, even while he yawn'd, in his waiſtcoat pocket; after which, telling the other man that he might go about his buſineſs, folded his arms together, and compoſed himſelf again to ſleep. For the ſoul of me I could hold no longer; but thinking there might be a feeling heart under all that immenſity of fat, I called for half a ſheet of paper, and wrote upon it as follows:

"SIR,

"THE gentleman who is now ſitting 'oppoſite to you, has been witneſs to 'your receiving a large ſum of money: 'he has a dear wife, and ſeveral chil-'dren, and is this moment in the moſt 'critical ſituation in which a huſband, 'and a father, and a man, can poſſibly 'be thrown into. I am a ſtranger, Sir, 'but I am ſtill a fellow-creature; and I 'can in ten minutes convince you that 'I am a man of integrity, honour and 'breeding. Will you relieve a whole 'family, by parting for a ſhort time 'with a few guineas? I have not the 'confidence to meet your eye when 'you wake; therefore I ſhall fold my 'hands over my ſight, and beg you will 'wake me if you comply with my re-'queſt. If you do not, pray leave me 'without the confuſion of ſpeaking on 'the ſubject. Farewel, Sir."

I folded up this billet, and laid it cloſe by him; and preſently afterwards I looked through my fingers, and beheld him take it up gapingly. He then threw his capacious eyes at me, got up, and calling the waiter, aſked him, in a half-whiſper, whether it was eaſy for a man to eſcape out of Bedlam, and give his keeper the ſlip. After this ſally of pleaſantry, he burſt into a violent laugh, and went ſhaking his ſides out of the coffee-room.

My ſituation cannot eaſily be imagined: I paid for my paper, execrated my folly, and hurried away with the burning bluſhes of diſappointment. In my way to my own little apartment, I broke forth into ſuch ſentiments as theſe:

"Oh, my God of heaven! Is it—is it poſſible? Can the human heart be ſo egregiouſly inhuman? If this fellow did not chuſe to relieve me, why, ah! why ſhould he inſult me! Why ſhould he add the pains of indignity to thoſe of indigence! How could he ſtoop from humanity ſo very low? But his heart will ach for his behaviour yet; and I ſhall hear that he ſuffers for it."

As I was turning a corner, a poor female figure with a ſmall bundle of matches invited my pity, with want in her face, ſorrow in her voice, and grief in her eyes: "Indeed I am not a common beggar, Sir (ſaid ſhe); my huſband is too ſick to labour, my children are too young to work—pity me then, and excuſe me; a halfpenny would buy us the bread we have wanted ſince laſt night."

I had but a penny upon earth, but I had a dinner provided at home for my family: ſo I gave her the penny, and apologized for the ſize of the preſent. The woman ſaid nothing, but looked every thing; laid her hand upon her heart, held her apron up to her eye, and went away.

What I felt upon this occaſion Almighty God only can tell—He gave it, he only can deſcribe it. I went up into my room, where I had no ſooner entered than my wife threw her arms round my neck, and told me ſhe had news for me—"Poor Mr Jenkins, my love (ſaid ſhe), has been grateful enough to return you the two guineas you lent him two years ago, and we may now make ourſelves quite happy." We ſat down to dinner, and it was a moſt luxurious meal; for Love, Gratitude, Friendſhip, and Content were our gueſts. "Weep no more my beſt Billy (ſaid my wife, after dinner); Providence never forſakes us, but

aſſiſts us in the very moment of extremity. Little George is much better than he was in the morning; Sally's fever is abated; I have got in a new ſupply of plain work, and Betſy can quite maſter the ſong you are ſo fond of; and ſo, if you chuſe to indulge yourſelf in your half pint of wine ſhe ſhall try her voice, and we ſhall be the happieſt circle in the world." "And is it poſſible (ſaid I), that tenderneſs and conſtancy ſhould be thus ſuperior to all the unwieldy apathy of wealth and plenty. Oh the warm glow of ſenſibility! Oh the tender grace of the domeſtic heart! I feel it, I venerate it, I weep over it."

In a few minutes my daughter, in a ſweet and pathetic voice, ſung the following verſes:

SONG.

What is ſplendour, what is wealth?
What the diamond's dazzling ſhine?
Real riches glow in health;
Thoſe are genuine, thoſe are mine!

II.

True it is, the coach of ſtate,
The palace, and the coſtly fare,
Are to me denied by fate:
Theſe I loſe—but theſe are care.

III.

Then begone the joys of gold,
Farewel, folly, farewel, dreſs!
Calmly I the heaps behold,
And only aſk for happineſs.

MOMUS: *Or, The* LAUGHING PHILOSOPHER.

MATRIMONIAL DEBATES *occaſioned by the New* TAXES.

CALLING the other morning upon an old friend of mine, I found him at breakfaſt with his wife and daughters, and with the *Morning Poſt* before him on the table, torn in two places, which he was endeavouring to unite, to bring the ſeparated words together in ſuch a manner that the meaning of them might be diſcovered at firſt ſight. In order to compleate the junction of them with the greater exactneſs, he had taken the advantage of his barnacles.

On my aſking him if his paper had met with an accident, he replied very compoſedly, "No; my wife tore it on purpoſe."

"'Tis very well, my dear (replied ſhe): however, ſince you have begun telling tales of me, I will be even with you.—You muſt know, Sir (continued ſhe, turning to *me*), that Mr N—— took in two morning papers and two evening ones before the additional halfpenny was laid, though there is never any thing worth reading in them—nothing but groſs ſcandal, and perſonal abuſe—and I have not been able to make him lay either of them down, though he has actually taken two wheels from his whiſky; ſo that I now ride in danger of my life: and more than that, he grudges me a new pack of cards to amuſe myſelf and my friends with."

"Well—(anſwered he); and pray am I not in the right? Is not my taſte the leaſt expenſive of the two? My horſe goes as well in a carriage with two wheels, as in a carriage with four; and I can win the rubbers with cards which have been already played with, as well as with thoſe which have not been handled before; but there is no ſatisfaction at all in poring over old news-papers, and reading the ſame thing a thouſand times."

"Why really (replied the lady), you are always reading the ſame thing over and over again; there is never any thing new, but a parcel of lies made every day of Us, as well as of every body elſe."

"Why then (anſwered her huſband), we are ſure, at leaſt, of having them ſerved up freſh and freſh."

"I don't deſire to have any thing to be ſaid about *me* (anſwered Mrs N——), as I am perfectly ſatisfied with my own conduct in every reſpect; but I can't bear to have *him* (throwing her eyes ſtrongly on her huſband) reflected upon, for the honour of our family, eſpecially in thoſe very papers he is ſo eager to throw away his money upon——He actually grudges his family the common neceſſaries of life."

"Wh—ew! (cried he, looking ſignificantly at me), What the d—l are we at now?—Pray, madam (addreſſing himſelf to Mrs N——), what reflections can be caſt upon *me?* and what neceſſaries are you and my daughters denied?"

"Nay, now you are warm, my dear (replied ſhe); but I will be judged by this gentleman (turning to me), whether it is decent for a man of your *vaſt* trade to be ſo monſtrous ſtingy, as to grudge paying the additional wheel-tax for your whiſky, when I know you can very well afford to keep a coach.—And here (con-

tinued ſhe, ſhewing me her daughters) here are our two girls grown as tall as their father, and cannot ſtir any where for want of a carriage; for you ſee plainly that it is impoſſible to cram us all four into a whiſky."

"True, Madam (anſwered I)." My friend then interrupted me by another wh—ew, which was accompanied with the following query:—Have the girls no legs, or are they tied ſo faſt together that they cannot walk?—You ſee, Sir (continued he, turning to me), what it is for a wife to know better than her huſband.—And ſo, Madam, (proceeded he, looking at his wife), you know that I can afford to keep a *coach?* But let me tell you, Mrs N——, that if this curſed *American* war goes on, and the taxes increaſe, as they certainly muſt, in conſequence of the enormous expences which it occaſions, there will be no trade, no coaches; you may be glad to get a wheel-barrow to ride in, or bread to eat."

Here the lady's patience began to be exhauſted; and her reſentment which *my* preſence, I ſuppoſe, had hitherto kept down, broke out; her blood mounted up into her cheeks, and

From her eye-balls flaſh'd the living fire.

"L—d have mercy upon me! Mr N—— (exclaimed ſhe), how you talk? One would think that you had loſt your ſenſes; but the reading of thoſe confounded news-papers, Sir, (continued ſhe to me), has almoſt turned poor Mr N——'s head: there is not a word of truth in any of them; and yet he believes every thing that he reads. I am ſure I never did a better thing in my life, when I tore the Morning Poſt; and had he not ſnatched it from me, I would not have left a line of it whole. He may ſay what he will; but it is unknown the money he turns in a week, and yet he is always hanging over the papers, to tell us that we are *ruined*. I am ſure if I was a king, I would not ſuffer a ſingle paper to be printed; for ſuppoſe all that they tell us is true, pray what are we better for it? Therefore we have no buſineſs to know any thing of the matter: when we have drubbed the rebels heartily, *one* Gazette will ſerve for all. And ſo come along, Sophy and Charlotte, let us go to the mercer's and chuſe our lute-ſtrings, or they will not be made up time enough for us to be at the ball at Southampton next week."

Here the huſband began to loſe *his* patience: ſtopping his family juſt as they were upon the wing, he deſired them to remain at home, as he was ſure they would ſpend more in one gown, than the whole wheel-tax would come to in a year; adding, that if her great-grandmother had lived in theſe bad times, ſhe would have worked the *Battle of Bunker's Hill* on a fire-ſkreen months ago, inſtead of playing at cards, and jigging at a ball the L—d knows where!"

Here the young part of his family could not refrain from laughing: Miſs Charlotte declared, that if her great-grandmother did ſuch laborious pieces of work, ſhe ſpent her time to very little purpoſe.

"Aye, aye, (cried her father) you talk like an idle girl; but let me tell you, Miſs, ſuch an extraordinary event as the *Battle of Bunker's Hill* ought to be had in remembrance. In former times, women employed themſelves more advantageouſly than they do at preſent."

"What! they got the news-papers by heart, I ſuppoſe (cried Miſs Sophy), or ſtitched down the remarkable paragraphs on their pockets and petticoats."

"Well (replied Mr N——), and a very good way it would have been to fix them in their minds."

"Yes, my dear (ſaid Mrs N——), and that way would render them ſtill more unneceſſary than they are at preſent. I will appeal now to your friend here, if any woman can be more ridiculous, let her do what ſhe pleaſes, than a politician, who is always hunting after intelligence, not a ſyllable of which can be reaſonably relied on? Yet he ventures not only to relate all that he has read, but to affirm it alſo for an abſolute fact."

To be called upon to ſettle a diſpute between man and wife, is ſurely to be in a very diſagreeable ſituation. As I felt myſelf, therefore, thus ſituated, I would have modeſtly declined giving my opinion upon the debate in queſtion; but as few diſputants, eſpecially female ones, chuſe to relinquiſh a favourite point, Mrs N—— would not permit me to remain in a ſtate of neutrality; I was obliged to declare my ſentiments, and accordingly ſpoke in favour of thoſe very

papers which ſhe had ſo ſeverely condemned; telling her, that I thought the news-papers were of far greater utility to *her* ſex than to *ours*.—"Is not every ſpecies of diverſion (continued I) punctually deſcribed in them? Is not every thing neceſſary for the decoration of your perſon daily advertiſed in them? Are you not told when you may go to the play, the opera, the concert, and the maſquerade, by the news-papers? And are you not by them informed of the neweſt-faſhioned heads of hair, and the moſt beautiful ſets of teeth? Have you not in the papers of the day and the night, the freſheſt advices concerning thoſe materials which are the moſt happily calculated to mend or to make a complexion? Do they not very kindly point out thoſe places where you may have falſe legs, and ſtays made to ſuit or improve any ſhape? Are there not *infallible* remedies for every diſeaſe incident to human nature continually preſcribed in thoſe uſeful vehicles the news-papers? But, to give you ſtill ſtronger proofs of their utility and importance to the whole female world, are there not ſcandalous anecdotes of every living creature of your acquaintance, high-ſeaſoned with the true ſpirit of ſatire, which, while you affect to call them ſhocking lies, you believe them, or at leaſt hope to find them inconteſtible truths? Women, therefore, Madam, ought rather to rejoice at the brisk circulation of news-papers, which a certain great man has, with no ſmall propriety, as well as force of expreſſion, ranked among the *Luxuries of Life*, on account, no doubt, of the *richneſs* of the matter with which they frequently abound: you ought, I ſay, rather to rejoice at the circulation of ſuch uſeful and entertaining pieces of literature, than to wiſh for the extinction of them.—Nay, I will not ſcruple to aſſert, that news-papers are the daily bread of your ſex; no woman in the world could ſubſiſt without them. Be thankful then, Madam, that Mr N—— is ſo willing to provide for your wants of every kind, by chearfully paying the additional half-penny, as they give you the faireſt opportunities to diſplay your elocution upon every ſubject under the ſun, and to figure away in all companies in every line of converſation."

Here, having almoſt talked myſelf out of breath, I ſtopped. My friend clapped his hands with a loud ſmack, and cried, Well done—well done, Momus. His lady, for once, convinced that a *Man* could be in the right, ſubſcribed to my deciſion, and promiſed not to ſay a ſingle word againſt news-papers again; ſlily inſinuating, however, at the ſame time, that ſhe expected the *reſtoration* of the *two wheels* which her huſband had *baniſhed* from his whiſky."

Anecdote *of Miſs* Catley.

SOME time ago, dean B——, who is a very exemplary and popular clergyman in Dublin, and who intereſts himſelf much in public charities, ſent a meſſage to Miſs Catley, requeſting her to *give him a night* for that purpoſe in one of the public gardens. Catley, who is generally good-natured enough not to refuſe any act of charity (though in the preſent caſe ſhe found, from the variety of her engagements, ſhe could not comply), pretended to underſtand him in a different light, and in conſequence wrote him the following note, which ſoon found its way into moſt of the faſhionable aſſemblies in town:

"Miſs C—— preſents her compliments to dean B——, and acquaints him, from the nature of her preſent connection, ſhe cannot (agreeable to his requeſt) *give the dean a night*: She begs leave, at the ſame time, to acquaint him, ſhould this connection be diſſolved, ſhe does not know any gentleman of the cloth ſhe would ſooner indulge; but hopes that decency will prevent the dean from fixing on a *public garden* for the rendezvous."

To the Printer, *&c.*

SIR,

THE following beautiful hymn was written preſently after the commencement of the reign of king James I. by W. W. (Mr William Withers), author of a collection of hymns, now very ſcarce. I have ſhewn it to ſome competent judges, who, for genuine piety, primitive purity, and, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, ſublime ſimplicity, prefer it to Pope's Univerſal Prayer; without taking any part in the controverſy, as it may be no unacceptable preſent to the more ſerious part of your readers, I ſubmit it with all deference to their attention, how ſoon you can reſcue it from oblivion.

Yours, &c. T. S.

POETRY.

An HYMN *to the* CREATOR.

GREAT Almighty God of heaven!
Honour, praiſe, and glory be
Now, and ſtill hereafter given,
For thy bleſſings deigned me;
Who haſt granted, and prepared,
More than can be well declared.

By thy mercy thou didſt raiſe me
From the humble pits of clay;
Thou haſt taught my lips to praiſe thee,
To confeſs thy love alway.
And thoſe bleſſed hopes do'ſt leave me,
Whereof no man can bereave me.

By thy grace thoſe paſſions, troubles,
And thoſe wants that me oppreſt,
Have appear'd as watry bubbles,
Or as dreams, or things in jeſt.
For thy providence attending,
I with pleaſure ſaw their ending.

Thoſe afflictions and thoſe terrors
Which to others grim appear,
Did but ſhew me where my errors
And my imperfections were;
But diſtruſtful could not make me
Of thy love, nor fright, nor ſhake me.

When in public to defame me
A deſign was brought to paſs,
On their heads who meant to ſhame me,
Their own malice turned was;
And that day moſt grace was ſhown me.
Which they thought ſhould have undone me.

Therefore as thy bleſſed Pſalmiſt,
When he ſaw his wars had end,
And his days were at the calmeſt,
Pſalms and hymns of praiſes penn'd,
So my reſt thro' thee enjoyed
To thy praiſe I have employed.

Yea remembering what I vowed,
When incloſ'd from all but thee,
I thy preſence was allowed,
While the world neglected me;
This my Muſe hath took upon her,
That ſhe might advance thine honour.

Lord, accept my poor endeavour
And aſſiſt thy ſervant to,
In good ſtudies to perſevere,
That more fruitful he may grow,
And become thereby the meeker,
Not his own vain glory ſeeker.

Grant my frailties and my folly,
And thoſe daily ſins I do,
May not make this work unholy,
Nor a blemiſh bring thereto;
But let all my faults committed
With compaſſion be remitted.

What of weakneſs will poſſeſs me,
Human thoughts of vain repute,
Which unwelcome oft oppreſs me,
Do not, Lord! to me impute!
And tho' part they will not from me,
Let them never overcome me.

Till the preſent from obſceneneſs,
Thou, O Lord! haſt kept my pen,
And my verſe abhor'd uncleanneſs,
Tho' it vain were, now and then;
My looſe thoughts it ne'er inflamed,
But corrected them and tamed.

Still with-hold me from delighting
In all things which miſbeſeem,
And from every kind of writing
Where thy ſervants loſe eſteem;
That I may with faith and reaſon
Ever work in future ſeaſon.

O preſerve me from committing
Aught that's heinouſly amiſs,
From all ſpeeches him unfitting,
Who hath been employ'd on this.
Yea, as much as may be deigned,
Keep my very thoughts unſtained.

That theſe helps unto devotion
May no ſcandal have at all,
Lord! I make this fervent motion
For their ſakes that uſe them ſhall;
Of the world I am not fearful,
Nor of mine own glory careful.

Whilſt thy favours thou doſt deign me,
I deſpiſe the world's reſpect,
And moſt comforts entertain me
When I ſuffer moſt neglect;
Yea, I then am beſt rewarded
When I ſeem the leaſt regarded.

When I meditate my Saviour,
And how many a ſpiteful tongue
Slander'd his moſt pure behaviour,
And his pious works did wrong;
I contented am, and care not,
Tho' my life detraction ſpare not.

Therefore, when that I ſhall blamed,
Or with cauſe or cauſeleſs, be,
So thy truth be not defamed,
Fall what can befal on me;
Let my fame of none be friended,
So thy ſaints be not offended.

That is moſt my fear, O Father!
Thy aſſiſtance therefore lend,
And O let me periſh rather
Than thy little ones offend!
Let my life ſome honour do thee,
Or by death return me to thee.

For thy praiſe I wiſh and love it,
And O let my end be ſhame,
If for mine own ſake I covet
Either life, or death, or fame;
So it may promote thy glory,
Let detraction write my ſtory.

But to thee which way availing,
Can my ſhame or honour be?
Truth ſhall ever be prevailing,
Whatſoe'er is thought of me;
Thou nought loſeſt thro' my folly,
Or ought gaineſt by the holy.

And when I with Iſr'el's ſinger,
To my ſongs of faith ſhall learn
Thy ten ſtringed law to finger,
And that muſic ſhall diſcern;
Lift me to that angel choir,
Whereunto thy ſaints aſpire.

HORACE, *Book* II. *Ode* 12. *Imitated.*

THE wars of France, Germania's well-fought field,
Are themes to abler poets I muſt yield;
Nor will I tell what ſtreams affrighted ran
With heroes' blood all purple to the main:
I'll leave the laureat in ſome birth-day ode
To call his country heaven, his king a god!

No—let me ſing in humble ſtrain
My Molly's ſparkling eye,
That heart where love and friendſhip reign,
Thoſe charms for which I ſigh.

Say, which of all the virgin choir
Can boaſt my Molly's wit?
Or where's the maid that dares aſpire
To dance or ſing ſo ſweet?

When playing with her auburn hair,
That wantons down her neck,
Could India bribe me from my fair,
Such pleaſure to forſake?

Sometimes ſhe bends to meet the kiſs,
Sometimes with coyneſs feign'd,
She faintly interrupts my bliſs,
And longs to be conſtrain'd.

The GARTER. *Written by a* GENTLEMAN *in the Name of a Friend, who found a Garter, accidentally dropped by a young* LADY.

THO' prudes may frown, who ſcandal fear,
Of this I am no ſtarter;
By gentle innocence I'll ſwear,
And kiſs her hallow'd garter.

In Sophy's form ſhe's known to all,
And lov'd in ev'ry quarter;
Unconſcious ſhe the prize let fall,
And made my theme the garter.

Of Sophy 'tis an emblem true,
Unſully'd, white, but ſmarter,
Than any ribbon, green, red, blue,
Of Thiſtle, Bath, or Garter.

Let virtuoſos waſte their caſh,
And gold for rubbiſh barter,
In my eſteem gems are but traſh
Compar'd with Sophy's garter.

Tho' Monks may view with fervent eyes
The relics of a martyr,
They'd feel far warmer tranſports riſe
At ſight of Sophy's garter.

And ſurely would her modeſt mien
Have aw'd the wildeſt Tartar,
Cou'd he the lovely maid have ſeen,
Whilſt bluſhing for her garter.

No bribe ſhall e'er this treaſure gain,
Believe a true imparter;
But ſhou'd my joy prove Sophy's pain,
To her I'll give the garter.

Say, whence proceeds the partial art,
Or how obtain'd the charter,
By which ſhe firmly holds my heart,
Who could not keep her garter?

Know Cupid's laws bind all degrees,
From king to clown, or carter,
Like chains of ſteel, yet ſoft are theſe
As Sophy's ſilken garter.

Kind ſpirit! guard the youthful fair,
From ev'ry danger part her,
She well deſerves your tender care,
Tho' careleſs of her garter.

May Sophy long experience bliſs,
No fortune adverſe thwart her,
And may ſhe deign to ſmile on this
Small tribute to her garter.

The LOVER'S ALMANACK. *A jeu d'eſprit.*

WHEN Sally frowns, 'tis wind and rain,
When Sally ſmiles, 'tis fair again,
Blooming ſpring ſits on her cheeks,
Warmer ſummer on her lips.
Her hair is autumn's waving ſheaves,
But where are then it's falling leaves?
They never, never dare appear,
Whilſt Sally, ſmiling Sally's near;
But when ſhe's gone they ſtrew the ground,
And winter bluſters all around.

THE REVIEW.

To SOAME JENYNS, *Esq.* [P. 338.]

SIR,

AS you have been pleased to lay before the *public* your sentiments concerning the Internal Evidence of the Christian Revelation, and to give so many proofs of your attentive consideration of that important subject, to you are certainly intitled to a respectful regard; but I hope you will not think me ill employed, if, at the same time, I express my sincere and grateful thanks for your valuable present to the public; I endeavour to remove any objection that might be thrown in the way of your enquiry, or aim at rectifying any mistakes you may have fallen into, which seem to me to obstruct the prospect of that clear and consistent evidence that might be expected from such a divine revelation.

I believe with you that there is such a book as the New Testament, "from which book may be extracted a system of religion, new, both with regard to the object and doctrine, and not only superior to, but unlike every thing that had before entered into the heart of man, and from whence may also be collected a system of ethics, in which every moral precept, founded on reason, is carried to a higher degree of purity and perfection, than in any other of the wisest philosophers of the preceding ages; every moral precept, founded on false principles omitted, and many new ones added, peculiarly corresponding with the new object of this religion.—That such a system of religion and morality could not have been the work of any man or set of men, much less of such obscure illiterate persons, who actually did discover and publish it to the world; and that consequently you are entitled to your conclusion, *That it must derive its origin from God.*"—This you have displayed in such a striking light, that I must profess I think every thing called religion must fall where this light has not its effect.

Being led thus far, I was sorry to be stopped short of my entire approbation, by your thinking the love of our country and private friendship *fictitious* virtues, omitted as part of the contents of this book, and unworthy of a place there; and by your thinking the plan of the gospel incompatible with that of civil society, or that we cannot act properly as Christians, and at the same time pursue the interests of this world.—These objections and sentiments require a more strict examination; as I conceive, if considered as truths, they would hurt our faith in the Internal Evidence which you so strongly and justly recommend.—I would therefore beg leave to observe, that the love of our country and private friendship are not fictitious virtues, but real ones, not omitted but recommended in Revelation, not contrary to, but in perfect union therewith.—By private friendship I mean a reciprocal esteem and affection of virtuous minds, united by a harmony of inclinations, views, and interests, all upright and generous, never exceeding the bounds of justice and truth, and always subservient to the great law of universal benevolence. Such private friendships are as the balm of life to ourselves, and valuable as the means of promoting the cause of virtue, and happiness of the world.—And by love of our country I mean such a rational and virtuous disposition that has a tendency to advance the universal good, which is best promoted by every person's having a hearty affection for the society to which he belongs, as being his proper station and sphere of usefulness.—Why then should these be deemed *fictitious* virtues—so agreeable, so useful, so consistent, and as being connected with, and subservient to the good of the whole. Christ himself had his friends whilst here on earth; and if we had our Lazaruses and our St Johns, should we not have his example for our justification, and to weep over and pray for Jerusalem! Should we not have him as a pattern for our imitation!—Lord Shaftesbury had made it an objection that those important real virtues made no part of the Christian revelation, but which, if that had been from God, might have been expected to have been found there. I doubt your answer, that these virtues were fictitious and unimportant, would scarce be deemed satisfactory, but that it is a much more true and convincing one, to allow them to be unquestionable virtues of importance; and, so far as they do not interfere with the general principles of benevolence, which Christianity inculcates, constitute

a part of Chriſtian morality, and are in entire harmony with the Chriſtian ſyſtem, the practice and example of its divine Author and his apoſtles.—You will be pleaſed to conſider this, and compare what lord Shafteſbury has ſaid, with thoſe who have directly ſet themſelves to give him an anſwer.—Your other objection, or rather miſtake, as if there was ſomewhat in revelation forbidding to us men and members of civil ſociety, as if Chriſtians were to have no concern in the things of this world whilſt paſſing to another, requires a few words to ſet it right

There are certainly ſuch injunctions in the New Teſtament as, "Labour not for the meat that periſhes, but for that which endures to eternal life.—Set not your affections on things beneath, &c." But you muſt have too much diſcernment not to ſee that theſe and others of a like kind mean *principally* or *chiefly*, not abſolutely, but *comparatively*. You will therefore pardon me if I think your ſtating and anſwering this part of your ſubject to be wide of the mark, and that a religion ſhould be revealed incompatible with the œconomy of the world, *is ſaid without proof*, and is a ſuppoſal that ſeems rather to reflect diſgrace than honour upon the Revelation for which you are an advocate. Whether the earth goes round the ſun, or the ſun goes round the earth, makes no part of divine revelation; it not being the deſign of revelation to compoſe or explain a ſyſtem of aſtronomy, but from the apparent view of the heavens to lead the thoughts to God as declarative of his glory.—Nor is it the purpoſe of revelation to give lectures on the various diſeaſes of thoſe who were cured by Chriſt, but to ſhew the power of Him who cured thoſe diſeaſes, and thereby proved the divinity of his miſſion—Nor to exhibit a plan of policy for the government of kingdoms, or the adminiſtration of civil matters under one or other peculiar form in the ſeveral nations of the earth—Theſe are all left as before the coming of Chriſt.

Chriſt's kingdom is *not* of *this* world, conſequently his ſubjects are to conſider themſelves as belonging to *another*—They are repreſented as ſtrangers here, travelling to their homes; not ſubject to the laws and cuſtoms of this world: *When theſe are in oppoſition to the laws of their divine Maſter*, whoſe revealed will is and ought to be the *ſole* rule of their *faith* and *practice*, but then they neither ceaſe to be men, nor members of civil ſociety; every duty and every privilege belonging to the one or other remains with the Chriſtian as before his converſion, nor is there any thing in the original deſign and inſtitution of Chriſtianity unfavourable thereto in either of thoſe views.

I would repeat a few of your paragraphs which are brought as proofs of your point, and which are thus expreſſed: "The love of power and riches are great incitements to great actions, and yet by this inſtitution are theſe depreciated and diſcouraged."—I conceive you ſhould rather have ſaid, by this inſtitution placed in their *due order* and *degree* both as to their value and purſuit. —Seek the kingdom of God and the righteouſneſs thereof in the firſt place, as deſerving your firſt, your greateſt care and attention, and all other things in their order and according to their value, in ſubſerviency to the firſt and greateſt, and with ſubmiſſion to the will of God.—Here is no *incompatibility* or *contrariety*.

"Government is eſſential to man, and cannot be managed without certain degrees of violence and corruption."—Why ſo? By your expreſſion, "government is eſſential to man," I preſume you muſt mean, that government was inſtituted by God as neceſſary for man in the preſent ſtate; but had you ſo expreſſed it, it would have ſounded very harſh to ſay that God inſtituted government ſo, that no Chriſtian, if he would anſwer that character, could poſſibly take a part in it; ſo that the moſt conformable to his will, as an individual, was incapable of rendering that ſervice which the duty of government, inſtituted by God, required at his hands. This would be ſtrange indeed if true, and is ſuch a reflection on God and the revelation of his will as could not, I think, be eaſily cleared up. —That man and the politicians of this world have mixed violence and corruption with the divine inſtitution of government is too true; but it is as true, that the moſt godlike government is the moſt pure, and what ſquares beſt with Chriſtianity is the beſt adminiſtration.

A nation cannot be without wars, nor wars without rapine, &c. and yet theſe are prohibited.

If an individual may defend himſelf

juſtly againſt an invader, why may not the defence of a ſociety be equally juſtified againſt a thouſand invaders of its rights. Would it recommend religion as coming from God, that it left the throats of the profeſſors thereof to be cut by unbelievers, without the means of ſelf-defence, or aſſurance of extraordinary protection and deliverance.

Non-reſiſtance of evil is the duty of individuals.—How ſo? It is recommended by the Chriſtian Revelation. Where? From the expreſſions, "Let him that taketh thy cloak take thy coat; and when thou art ſmitten on the one cheek, turn the other alſo:" We are to paſs by *trifling* injuries, even though *doubled*, to avoid ſtrife and contention, and to preſerve the rule of our own ſpirits.—Our reſentment is to be regulated by *our ſafety* and good of the *whole*, and not to inſiſt on every occaſion on an exact puniſhment of the offence.—Perpetual patience would provoke new injury, and yet is not this enjoined?—I ſhould anſwer no.—Chriſtian patience, as it reſpects God, is bearing any effective evil without inordinate diſquietude or dejection of ſpirits, which does not hinder an appeal to God by prayer for relief, nor being ſenſibly affected without affliction; and patience, as it reſpects our fellow-creatures, is the ſuffering injuries from man with our paſſions under *due* regulation, not *eradicated* or rendered *uſeleſs*. The Chriſtian may be *angry* and ſin not; he may reſent *within* bounds, and bring to puniſhment *within* meaſure. Chriſtian patience is not a *weakneſs* but a *virtue*.—"We are to be negligent of what we eat, drink, or wherewithal clothed, which would prevent all trade and commerce, and yet is this enjoined?"—We are certainly not to be *anxious*, *unduly* ſolicitous about eating, drinking, or about buying, ſelling, and getting gain, making it our only or our chief care and buſineſs, to the neglect of our ſpiritual concerns, or of the one thing peculiarly or eminently needful. This indeed is the *drift* of the New Teſtament, but is very conſiſtent with *induſtry* and care in our *temporal* concerns, and for providing for ourſelves and thoſe belonging to us ſuch neceſſaries and conveniences of life as the providence of God ſhall place within our reach in this our pilgrimage ſtate.—Martha was reproved as *out of time* and *out of meaſure*, and *not* for the *employment itſelf*. He that provides not for his own, is ſo far from being a Chriſtian, that he is worſe than an Infidel.—On the whole, you are pleaſed to obſerve, "Were theſe precepts obeyed, the diſpoſition of all human affairs would be *changed*, and the buſineſs of this world would not go on.—What would you then have us to do? Turn monks or hermits, or what elſe?—Bid adieu to this world and its things whilſt in it, that we may preſerve the characters of Chriſtians, or renounce Chriſtianity, that we may fill up the places and ſtations the providence of God has placed us in?—There is no need of either.—Your capital miſtake ſeems to be your charging Chriſtianity with what it is wholely free from, and chargeable only on the miſtaken apprehenſions of friends, or on the engraftments on Chriſtianity by Anti-chriſtian powers, which have canted reflections on Revelation that it does not deſerve, and brought Chriſtians into trouble and diſtreſs which Chriſtianity condemns. *That*, in its native purity and ſimplicity, is tidings of great joy in every view through the whole of our exiſtence here and hereafter. It is the ſins of individuals, and the uſurped power of eccleſiaſtical and ſecular rulers that have darkened it.—The ſanction is moſt aweful—We muſt all appear before the tribunal of Chriſt, to give an account of our reſpective conducts during this our ſtate of probation.——I am, Sir very reſpectfully, your humble ſervant, *A private Country Gentleman.*

ANECDOTE *of Sir* JOHN BLAQUIERE.

WHEN lord Harcourt was ambaſſador at Paris, Sir John was his ſecretary; and being applied to by a Major Buſhe, a noted duelliſt, to get him introduced to the king of France, Sir John aſked him, if he had been introduced to his own ſovereign? The Major replied, that he had not; upon which Sir John ſaid, that then he could not promote his deſire. This brought on an explanation, in which ſome high words were uſed, and ended in a duel. Buſhe was the moſt famous ſhot in Ireland, having rarely miſſed his man; but he miſſed Sir John Blaquiere, and was wounded himſelf. It was this duel, which was a noted one in Ireland, that fixed Sir John Blaquiere's power in that country upon a firmer footing than other circumſtances could have done; and he made good uſe of every circumſtance that favoured him.

HISTORY OF THE TIMES.

SEPTEMBER 5.—*to* 12.

RUSSIA.

Peterſburgh, Auguſt 2.

"HER imperial majeſty has been pleaſed to beſtow on M. Mouſſin Pouſchin, (the empreſs's miniſter to the court of Great Britain, who is now here) for his life and that of his lady, an eſtate in Livonia of between three and four thouſand roubles a-year.

"The following is an account of rewards diſtributed to the fleet, and promotions in the navy, made by her imperial majeſty at the late review at Cronſtadt:

"For the engagement at Napoli di Romania in the month of May 1770, where the Turkiſh fleet, conſiſting of 25 ſail, great and ſmall, was diſperſed: To rear admiral Elphinſton's ſquadron, one third of a year's wages, in all 13738 roubles. For the important victory gained over the Turkiſh fleet at Cheſme the 24th of June 1770: To admiral Spiritoff's ſquadron a year's wages, 106,632 roubles.—To rear admiral Elphinſton's ſquadron, three months wages, 10303 roubles, 54½ copecks.—To the officers and crew of the ſhip St Euſtatia, for burning a Turkiſh ſhip, 6100 roubles; and for the flag of the Turkiſh commander in chief, 3333 roub. 33 cop.—For the entire deſtruction of the Turkiſh fleet in the bay of Cheſme the 26th of June 1770, for the ſhips and veſſels burnt there, 118,493 roubles, 33½ cop.—For three flags burnt, 9000 roubles.—For the taking a ſhip and galley in the ſaid haven, 19,010 roubles.——To the commander in chief, 15,593 roubles, 66 cop.—To the other admirals or commanders, 22,276 roubles, 66 cop.——For the victory gained the 28th of October, 1774, at Patraſſo, over 24 Dulcignote frigates and chebecks, of which 17 were burnt under the cannon of the fort.——For the burning of the frigates and chebecks 35,633 roubles, 33½ cop. of which ſum to the commander in chief, 3,563 roubles, 33½ cop.——In general, for the advantages gained over the enemy's fleet in the Mediterranean, for their deſtruction at Cheſme, for the taking of ſhips and galleys, and for rewards to the commander in chief, and admirals, 360,113 roubles, 54½ cop.

In the BLACK SEA.

For ſix of the enemy's ſhips burnt in the month of May 1773, the firſt action of the Ruſſian flag in that ſea: To the ſquadron of capt. Suchotin, one third part, according to the naval regulations, 540 roubles; of which ſum one tenth to the commander in chief, 54 roubles.—To the ſquadron of capt. Kinſbergen, for the action between Kefa and Kalatrava in June 1773, one third of a year's wages, 2,356 roubles, 46½ cop.—For the action near Ludſhuk-kale in Auguſt 1773, two-thirds of a year's wages, 12,054 roubles, 36 cop.

	Roubles.	*Copecks.*
In all,	14,951	9
To which being added,	360,113	54
The total is	375,064	63

"To vice-admiral and intendant gen. Naſimoff leave is granted to quit the ſervice on account of his bad ſtate of health; but he is to continue to enjoy his appointments, with permiſſion to reenter into the ſervice, when his health is re-eſtabliſhed.—To vice-admiral Greig, for his good and faithful ſervices, the order of St Alexander Newſky.—To major-general Hanibal, maſter of the naval ordnance, the poſt of grand maſter; and to the ſuperintendant Rabinin, the poſt of intendant-general.—Four brigadiers were advanced to the rank of major-general; and according to the naval regulations to caſt lots for the vacant poſt of rear-admiral.—Monſ. Kinſbergen is among the captains of the ſecond rank who were promoted to that of firſt captain.—There was beſides a great promotion of officers of inferior rank; and penſions were granted to ſeveral retiring from the ſervice. *Lond. Gaz.*

HOLLAND.

Hague, Aug. 1. "This day his ſerene highneſs the prince of Orange was pleaſed to appoint Hay Ferrier, of major-general Houſtoun's regiment, to be effective major to the ſecond battalion of the hon. major-general Stuart's regiment, in the room of major Turnbull, preferred."

Hague, Aug. 30. "It is ſaid that the ſtates-general having received information, that the Engliſh have again taken a Dutch veſſel from St Euſtatia, under pretence of her being laden with ammu-

nition, &c. for America: they immediately ſent orders down, to make the neceſſary complaints to the Britiſh government on that ſubject, that the abovementioned prize be given up; and it is reported that their high mightineſſes have requeſted Sir Joſeph Yorke to uſe his endeavours, that the ſaid veſſel be returned, and the owners indemniſied for the loſs they have ſuſtained by its detention."

ITALY.

Rome, Auguſt 10. "By the laſt letters from Naples we are informed, that two armed corſairs have lately taken a Neapolitan tartane, richly laden, bound for Sicily, and on board whereof was a Sicilian lady, who had been at Naples to receive a large legacy in money and valuable effects, with which ſhe was returning to her own country. The king's xebeques who eſcorted this veſſel, it is ſaid, had loſt ſight of her; the two captains, however, are put under arreſt, and will be brought to trial, though they pretend the tartane was not formally under their protection. The ſame corſairs have made two deſcents upon Calabria, in one of which they made ſlaves, and carried off, thirty poor harveſt-men, who were not timely aſſiſted by the neighbouring peaſants. But in the other part where thoſe Barbarians landed, they were obliged to reimbark precipitately, and with loſs."

FRANCE.

Verſailles, Aug. 15. "Advice is received here from Nova Scotia, that Monſ. Coulon de Villiers, and Maukan, an Indian chief, having been informed that the Engliſh had marched a body of troops as far as Acadia, which were deſtined to beat up their quarters, marched through the woods eight days with upwards of 400 Indians to meet that corps and fight them; and though Villiers and Maukan heard that the enemy were not leſs than 700, they did not heſitate to march up to them and face them. The Indians attacked them ſo furiouſly, that, in one hour and a quarter great part of the Britiſh troops were either killed or taken priſoners. The remainder rallied, and threw themſelves into a large houſe, before which they planted two pieces of cannon, ſix pounders, and four pattareroes: the Indians followed them thither, and after an attack of three quarters of an hour, the Engliſh deſired a capitulation, which was granted upon this condition amongſt others, that they ſhould not bear arms for ſix months, within a certain extent of territory ſpecified in the capitulation."

A French Lie!

Dunkirk, Aug. 27. "An advertiſement has been publiſhed here by the board of admiralty, giving notice of two buoys to be floated on the 1ſt day of October next, over ſome dangerous ſhallows and banks, as a warning to veſſels ſailing into the road of Dunkirk through the eaſt channel; of which the following is a tranſlation:

"Veſſels coming from the north, and 'intending to enter by the eaſt paſſage, 'will find on the north point of the 'bank named *Tropegeer* or *Cams Bank*, a 'black buoy, which they are to leave on 'the larboard ſide.

'And on the eaſt point of the bank 'named *d' Helſt*, which is a continua-'tion of the bank *Brack*, a white buoy, 'which they are to leave on the ſtar-'board ſide." *Lond. Gaz.*

Extract of a letter from an Engliſh gentleman at Paris, dated Aug. 29.

"It is publicly aſſerted here, that the provincials have made propoſals to the court of Verſailles for the reſtitution of all Canada, upon condition of France aſſiſting them with a fleet of 16 ſhips of the line, and the ſame number of frigates; and it is as confidently ſaid, that the French miniſtry have not given a deciſive anſwer, but wiſh for time to deliberate upon the important offer. Since Mr Paul left this metropolis, a coolneſs has ariſen between lord Stormont and this court, from ſome rebuff his lordſhip has received, upon being too preſſing to know its real intentions with reſpect to the offers of the Americans."

SPAIN.

Carthagena, July 20. "The regiment of Murcia (infantry), conſiſting of two battalions, now in garriſon here, will embark the day after to-morrow for Cadiz, on board his majeſty's ſhips the St Joſeph and the Pondoroſa; but as there will only remain here the ſecond battalion of the regiment of Brabant, and one ſquadron of that of Alcantara, which will not be ſufficient for the ſervice of this place, a detachment of one

hundred and fifty men of the firſt battalion of Brabant, and two other ſquadrons of Alcantara, are ordered to come hither. Theſe troops were at Murcia, waiting till the arrival of the regiment of Sorcia Infantry, which is on its march for this city; then the detachment will return to Alicant, and the regiment of Alcantara ſet out for Seville."

Cadiz, Aug. 3. "There have arrived here within this week paſt ſeven of our merchant-men from the Havannah: one of theſe veſſels brought two Engliſh ſailors, being part of 22 Engliſh ſailors belonging to three veſſels of their nation, who were taken off the iſland of Cuba on their homeward bound paſſage from Jamaica, by two American privateers, who gave the above 22 men leave either to go to America or be put on ſhore; the latter of which they choſe, and having a boat given them, arrived ſafe in it on the iſland of Cuba. The 20 others are expected here in the next ſhips that arrive from thence.—In conſequence of an order from the court, an embargo is laid on a great many Spaniſh merchant men who are to get ready immediately to carry troops to South America."

Gibraltar, Aug. 10. "Matters are not yet ſettled between the emperor and the Dutch, though we thought they were accommodated. Another Dutch ſquadron, commanded by admiral Pichot, is, we hear, coming to relieve the ſhips in the Mediterranean. What can prevent the peace being finally agreed on I cannot think, as the terms on which the emperor rates his friendſhip (if what I have been told is true) are not exorbitant.—We have no other news to ſend you from hence, where we live in an intire ſtate of inactivity."

EAST-INDIES.

Bengal, Dec. 9. 1775. "There will be no news from India this year except the loſs of the iſland of Balambangan, which the Malays have taken from the Engliſh, and plundered it of property to the value of 200,000 l. ſterling, belonging to the company. It was intirely owing to the inſufficiency of the force allowed; and it is a happineſs that the gentlemen eſcaped a maſſacre, for the Malays are of a temper that delights as much in blood as money. The Dutch and Spaniards are both accuſed of favouring this attack; but it is an ungenerous ſtigma; for the Malays, who live by plunder and aſſaſſinations, when they ſaw ſo ſure a prize, and ſo immenſe a treaſure, could not be expected to have reſtrained themſelves from the attempt."

Extract of a letter from Madraſs, dated Feb. 10. 1776.

"Lord Pigot's arrival has given a great turn to affairs here, the meaſures he purſues being contrary to the wiſhes of the old Nabob, and his ſecond ſon; who have long been attempting, by ſums of money, to pave an intereſt with miniſtry, in order to throw off every dependence on the company, to whom they are intirely beholden for their very exiſtence as princes. Many of the adviſers have found their ends, in their tampering with the Nabob, and his ſecond ſon; the latter having it ſtrongly in view to ſucceed to the Muſnud at the death of the former, and to deprive his elder brother, Omrah Gut Omrah, of his right of inheritance, by endeavouring to prejudice him in the eyes of his father, with falſe and injurious tales; but the old man's animoſity has now ſubſided, and he has taken this elder ſon again into favour, who has ever ſince acted on a good ſyſtem of politics, adviſing his father to do nothing without taking the company's intereſt into conſideration. And were it not for the amiable good character of the prince, his family muſt be ruined; for his father and his brother were taking thoſe ſteps, that muſt have obliged either the company or government to take the Carnatic from them, and put the whole on the ſame footing as at Bengal.—It is ſaid here that Tanjour is again in poſſeſſion of the former Rajah, who is now a priſoner; but the Nobob perſiſts ſtrongly againſt the meaſure, making a charge of eighty lacks of pagodas, which it has coſt him in ſums given away and expended. This, perhaps, will draw the attention of parliament, and individuals may be called to a ſevere account."

"P. S. The Rajah is releaſed from impriſonment, and Tanjour is now the company's garriſon; but whether he will be ever reſtored to his country and revenue, is ſubmitted to the company's further direction."

Extract of a letter from on board his majeſty's ſhip Dolphin, capt. Pigott, dated at Spithead, Aug. 30.

"We are juſt arrived here, after a

passage of about five months from Bombay, which place we left the 22d of March, and perhaps bring the first account of a peace being concluded between the East India company and the Marattoes, on very advantageous terms to the former, which was signed the first of March, at Loonan, and proclaimed at Bombay the 12th of the same month.

"Lieut.-col. Upton was sent ambassador to the Marattoes, from the great council at Bengal, whose proceedings do honour to every one employed by them. This peace is a proof of their justice and attachment to the true interest and honour of their principles, which must ever redound to their credit."

WEST-INDIES.

St George's, Grenada, June 22. "The governor of Martinico has prohibited the admission of foreign vessels into the ports of that island, by reason of the plentiful supplies of provisions imported, during the course of last month, from Old France, and of others they expect to receive from thence in future.—Letters from St Eustatia inform us, that capt. Buckley, commander of an American armed sloop, carrying ten carriage guns, twenty swivels and sixty men, was fined in the sum of 500 pieces of eight, by order of the governor, for having loaded a cargo of powder, contrary to the proclamation of their high mightinesses."

Antigua, July 5. "We have received intelligence of the loss we have sustained by the taking of our shipping. An act of the provincials, which will make them a number of enemies in the West India islands, and naturally incline those who were their friends to become their enemies. The admiral and officers have doubled their diligence on this occasion, and four vessels have been fitted out with guns, and sent to cruize on the provincials, who may almost always be met with about the Dutch and French islands. A number of their vessels, brigs and schooners, have been brought in here, proved of great service to the island, being generally laden with flour and lumber.—Our crops are good, but staves very dear, and I am afraid next year we shall have no casks to put our produce in should we be blest with plenty."

AMERICA.

Newport, Rhode-Island, June 23. "This day Mr Barnes Michal, appointed an admiral by the congress, set out from this place for Philadelphia, to take the command of a squadron of provincial ships of war lying at Philadelphia. He is to hoist his flag on board the Flower of the Sea, a ship of 56 guns."

Philadelphia, July 27. "The congress have been pleased to confer the honour of rear admiral on Archibald Stag, a brave and excellent officer, who commanded a privateer in the late war, on board of which he received thirteen wounds, and had his son killed by his side, as he was giving directions to grapple his enemy's ship. The Conception, a ship of 64 guns, built at the Havannah, is the vessel on board of which the admiral has hoisted his flag."

Extract of a Letter from a person on board his Majesty's ship, Brune, dated Halifax, July 3.

"We arrived here the first of this month, but found every thing very dear and scarce; mutton and beef are 1s. 4d per pound; fish is the chief article that people live on here, and is very cheap. We have taken a great number of American prizes, and our ships are bringing in more every day. The Americans have upwards of 100 privateers out, besides some smart frigates from 28 to 36 guns, and several good ships of 40 guns. A few days ago his majesty's ship Lively, of 20 guns, and a sloop of war, sunk one of their 40 gun ships, but were both almost shattered to pieces. One of the king's ships now in the harbour received 88 dollars per man from the sale of one sloop they had taken. The same ship has taken 20 more prizes. The army are gone to the southward, having left their wives and children here."

Extract of a Letter, received by way of Holland, from an officer of Frazer's Highlanders, who was taken with 170 *of that regiment, in a transport bound to Halifax.*

"I suppose, 'ere this, you will have heard of our misfortune in being taken by an American privateer. This, as the chance of war, we could easily have borne, but the treatment we have received since our landing was almost too hard for men of spirit to put up with. As it was thought improper for us to remain at a sea-port, we were ordered 60 miles up the country, there to be separated and put under guard of the country militia; accordingly we set out, but on our journey no slaves were ever served as we were; through every vil-

lage, town and hamlet that we paſſed, the women and children, and indeed ſome men amongſt them, came out and loaded us with the moſt raſcally epithets, calling us "raſcally cut-throat dogs, murderers, blood-hounds, &c. &c." But what vexed me moſt was, their continually ſlandering of our country (Scotland), on which they threw the moſt infamous invectives; to this abuſe they added ſhowers of dirt and filth, with now and then a ſtone. We complained to thoſe who had us in charge, but it was needleſs; for though they ſaw, and ſaid they were ſorry for the ill-treatment that we had received, it was not in their power to remedy it; for even they themſelves would perhaps receive full as bad, if not worſe uſage, than we had experienced; and alſo be conſidered as traitors to their country for only defending and protecting us from the reſentment of the populace; we therefore were obliged to ſubmit to what they were pleaſed to ſay and do; and were moſt happy, I aſſure you, when we arrived at the poſt where we were deſtined to remain as priſoners. I have applied with the reſt of the officers to the congreſs for our diſcharge on parole, and am in hopes of ſucceeding, when I ſhall fully inform you of particulars. I ſend this by a Dutch ſhip bound to Amſterdam."

Extract of a letter from Crown Point, dated July 25.

"According to promiſe, I take this ſecond opportunity of letting you know how our operations are going on in this part of the world, by the Iſabella, capt. Barclay, which will ſail from Quebec in a few days, and I imagine the expreſs will go in her to the miniſtry; but, being an eye-witneſs, I perhaps may give you a more exact account than will be publiſhed in the Gazette.

"After we had drove the rebels from Montreal, it took up twenty-ſeven days preparing batteaus, proviſions, and other neceſſaries fitting for our expedition. When all was ready, the army marched in three columns, the right commanded by gen. Burgoyne, the left by the Brunſwick general, and the center by gen. Carleton, as commander in chief; but ſome days previous to our marching, 700 Indians and Canadians were ſent in different parties to ſcour the woods, and, if poſſible, bring in priſoners. We arrived at the Lake, and embarked in our batteaus and ſmal craft; and, after ſome days ſailing and ſome days marching, Crown Point appeared from a riſing ground to our view about three miles diſtant, and the rebel camp very extenſive, and many new works in their front, which, by our glaſſes, we could eaſily perceive.

"We were immediately ordered to halt, encamp, and fortify; our ſcouts were ſent out, and happily they ſurrounded a ſerjeant's guard of the rebels, and brought them in priſoners. The intelligence they gave the general was, that the rebels were ſtrongly intrenched, were joined by 4000 men from New-York, and reſolved to wait our attacks. A council of war was called, and orders iſſued to march forward at three the next morning (July 22.). Between us and the rebel camp there was an extenſive valley, moſtly covered with underwood, and ſome groupes of trees intermixed. Our picquets and guards were ordered at ten at night to take poſſeſſion of the ſaid valley, either by fair or foul means; but happily they found no enemy, and there poſted themſelves, and puſhed their ſadets on the farther riſing ground in ſight of the rebels: Our generals, after putting the troops on ſlow march thither, haſtened to reconnoitre, and ſoon perceived it would be both bloody and difficult to diſlodge them; their flank was covered with thick woods, their front by a ſtrong intrenchment, and they cut down trees and ſtrewed them ſome hundred paces from their works, to obſtruct our attack; and Crown Point was in their rear.

"In this ſituation of things our troops reached the bottom of the valley, out of ſight of the rebels, and were ordered to halt and reſt on their arms. A ſhort conſultation was held, and it was reſolved to draw them from their intrenchments by ſtratagem, if poſſible. Accordingly gen. Burgoyne was ordered, with all the grenadiers of the army, and 700 Indians and Canadians, to penetrate the wood on their right flank, and wait for a ſignal from the front, before he appeared to the rebels; but at the ſame time his irregulars were to ſkirmiſh with any of the enemy they found in the wood. Brigadier Neſbit, with the 8th and 29th regiments, and a body of regulars, was to obſerve the ſame orders and precautions on their left flank. Col. Phillips, with the artil-

lery, was ordered to advance on their front, ſuſtained with ſix battalions, while the Brunſwick troops were ordered to remain in the valley, drawn up in battalia. Theſe diſpoſitions being made, and proper time allowed the troops to get on their different ſtations, col. Philips, with the artillery, mounted the hill, and advanced towards the rebels.

"A very heavy fire began on both ſides; our men kept advancing on through ſhowers of bullets, until a ſignal from the general cauſed them to fall into ſeeming diſorder; they began to retreat, and abandon ſome of their cannon; then the Brunſwickers marched to ſuſtain them, and advanced to our abandoned cannon, and began a well directed fire; but the rebels ſtill kept within their trenches, and fired inceſſantly, with great damage to us: then our troops, as was concerted, retreated, and abandoned moſt of their cannon, and in confuſion entered the valley, where they immediately formed. The rebels not doubting now but the day was their own, iſſued from their intrenchments, and marched with all ſpeed to ſeize our abandoned cannon, which were about three quarters of a mile from their works: they were ſuffered to take poſſeſſion of them, and were drawing them towards their works, when the ſignal was given by a ſky-rocket to Burgoyne and Neſbit, on which our front mounted the hill, and advanced in excellent order.

"The rebels preſented their front to us with ſeeming reſolution, and the fire again was renewed: but the critical moment being arrived, Burgoyne and Neſbit attacked them in rear and flank, and in ten minutes they were totally routed. We marched up to their works, which fired but ſlackly, being, I ſuppoſe, tender of their own men, which were ſcattered over the field, and forced with ſmall oppoſition; and the fort ſurrendered at diſcretion the next morning. Thus by a piece of refined generalſhip, we have taken and deſtroyed moſt of their army, which indeed would have coſt us five times the loſs we have ſuſtained, if we had attacked them in their trenches; however, we loſt about 300 killed and wounded. The carnage among them was terrible for 15 minutes, for they were attacked on all quarters; and as near as we can learn they had 800 killed, and as many wounded, and 400 made priſoners. Their officers are ſent to Quebec, the privates releaſed, and ſent home to their reſpective colonies; and now we are preparing our march to the ſouthward." *All this diſbelieved.*

ENGLAND.

LONDON, AUG. 31.—*to* SEPT. 7.

A letter from Peterſburgh, dated Auguſt 6. "It has been intimated lately by the admiralty to all the foreign officers who ſerve in our marine, that as it has been remarked that the greateſt part of the foreign officers ſhew but very little inclination to make themſelves maſters of the Ruſſian language, it has been thought proper to declare, by a particular Ukaſe, that, for the future, no officer of marine ſhall obtain the command of a ſhip, frigate, or other veſſel, unleſs he hath perfectly acquired the Ruſſian tongue, and undergone an examination in that reſpect." *L. Gaz.*

A letter from Hamburgh, dated Auguſt 23. ſays, "The following affair is the general talk at this place, and has made not a little noiſe among our merchants; I have therefore ſent it you with the particulars, as your nation is ſomewhat concerned therein.—A Daniſh frigate cruiſing between Jonkell and the iſle of Dogs, met with the following ſhips within two miles of the ſhore, and which ſhe accordingly made prizes of, on account of the contraband goods which they had on board. The Middlehaen, capt. Gerrit Bull, with four whales, and 170 barrels of blubber; the Ruſt Van t'Vader, and capt. Gerrit Gerrits Bull, with four whales, and 160 barrels of blubber (theſe two ſhips are Dutchmen); alſo an American ſhip, capt. Stephen Kidder, with 210 tons of whale oil. The captains of thoſe three ſhips arrived at Elſineur, from Davis's ſtraights, the 17th inſtant, on board the Middlehaen, and the other two prizes are hourly expected. The contraband goods found on board of them, and for which they were ſeized by the Daniſh frigate, were as follows: In the firſt ſhip ten ſea-dog ſkins, which the captain declares he knew not they were in the ſhip, and which he ſuppoſes the inhabitants had ſold (though unknown to him) to ſome of the crew; in the ſecond ſhip, five ſea-dog ſkins, and which the captain ſays the inhabitants made a pre-

ſent to him, for ſome neceſſaries which he ſpared to them; in the American ſhip, four ſea-dog ſkins, which captain Kidder ſays he knows not how they came on board. Four or five ſeamen were taken out of each veſſel and put on board the frigate, and Daniſh pilots and ſeamen into the prizes. The officers and men that were on board the Middlehaen are marched up to Copenhagen, whither the reſt are to be ſent as ſoon as they arrive"

We hear from good authority, that government has received ſome very important news from the court of France, and ſome aſſert, that there will ſoon be publiſhed an edict by that court, if not altogether of the ſame nature as that lately iſſued by the court of Portugal, yet in great part like it: By which there will be a reſtriction laid on the commerce with the Americans, that will operate much in favour of Great Britain. Whether this has been brought about by the negociation of our court, or is founded on the law of nations, or the regard of the court of France for the commercial intereſt of her own ſubjects, has not yet appeared.

Particulars from America, *contained in ſeveral private letters, received by the laſt conveyance*:

"That Thomas M——, the quaker, who at firſt only commanded the provincial forces at Boſton, is appointed by the congreſs governor of that place. —That George Roſs, Eſq; of Philadelphia, is alſo appointed ſuperior judge of the whole American admiralty.—That ——— Mitchell, Eſq; of the ſame place, is alſo appointed firſt commiſſioner of exciſe.—That Silas Dean, a moſt accompliſhed American gentleman, had been deputed by the congreſs their plenipotentiary to the court of France, and in conſequence left Philadelphia the 16th of May laſt.—That the congreſs, holding their ſafety any longer at Philadelphia every way inſecure and precarious, had removed to Reading, and not to Lancaſter, as has been reported. Reading is about 110 miles from Philadelphia, and in point of ſituation more centrical than any other place, equally ſafe and commodious, the road to it being defended both by nature and art, with innumerable paſſes and defiles.—That when Sir Peter Parker left Charlestown, eighty-five regulars were left behind in the Willow Iſland, and were ſuppoſed to have been taken priſoners by the provincials.—That the perſon hung during the action at Charleſtown by gen. Lee, was a young American officer; and his execution was in conſequence of his conviction of treachery to America."

State of the provincial navy in the month of May laſt.

	No. of ſhips	guns.
Maſſachuſett's	21	From 10 to 40
———	10	Smaller
New Hampſhire	27	Small & large
Connecticut	37	Ditto
Rhode Iſland	40	Ditto
New-York	50	From 10 to 40
———	20	Smaller
Jerſeys	10	Large & ſmall
Maryland	15	From 10 to 30
———	10	Smaller
Pennſylvania	40	From 10 to 40
———	50	Smaller
Low Countries	25	Small & large
Virginia	30	Ditto
North Carolina	27	Ditto
South ditto	33	Ditto
Total ——	445	

Large and ſmall craft in the ſervice of the congreſs as privateers, and to defend their harbours.

The provincial forces, on the 31ſt of May, conſiſted of 148 regiments of infantry, making 91,310 men; ſeven regiments of light horſe, 3,315; eight regiments of artillery, 3,210. The regiments are not yet completed, ſeveral of them being juſt nominated, but the numbers are what the congreſs intend they ſhould conſiſt of.

The following is an accurate ſtate of gen. Howe's forces, when joined:

6000 effective, he took from Halifax.
11,000 fighting men of the Heſſians.
1000 guards.
2000 Highlanders, excluſive of thoſe taken.
3000 gen. Clinton will bring.
2000 light horſe, artillery, marines.

24,000 the whole force.

A letter from Virginia, dated July 28. ſays, "General Rogers has, within a few miles of this place, hoiſted the ſtandard of liberty, to which the Indians, from all quarters, flock. Their headſmen wear a ſtar on their breaſt; their motto is, "Deſpair not."

It is talked that lord Dunmore is very ſoon expected home from his government of Virginia.

Early on Wedneſday morning, advice was received expreſs at lord George Germaine's office, that the Kent, capt. Elliott, from Quebec, with ſome freſh diſpatches from gen. Carleton, was ſafe arrived off Spithead. Col. M'Lean, who came paſſenger, ſet out immediately for London, and delivered the diſpatches to his lordſhip. It is ſaid that every thing went on proſperouſly; that they had a very plentiful ſupply of proviſions; and that gen. Carleton intended to winter there.

On Tueſday night his excellency gov. Eden, of Maryland, arrived expreſs from Portſmouth, with ſome freſh diſpatches to lord George Germaine. He came over in the Levant tranſport, capt. Thomas, after a paſſage of 27 days. Several other gentlemen have come paſſengers in the above ſhip, which left Virginia the 6th of Auguſt. She brings an account that the Roebuck and Fowey men of war, with the Otter ſloop, were ſafe arrived there.—Gov. Eden was obliged to take refuge on board the Fowey man of war; even his baggage was ſtopped, becauſe ſeveral of the provincials had deſerted to him, whom he had refuſed to give up. Finding, however, that he could be of no further ſervice to government, he embarked on board the above tranſport, and, with ſeveral gentlemen of that province, came to England.——The governor was formerly a captain in the guards, and obtained his poſt by marrying the ſiſter of the late celebrated lord Baltimore, who was proprietor of Maryland.

Yeſterday morning the Succeſs, Monteith, for Quebec, and the Richmond, Rogers, for Halifax, with freſh advices for general Carleton and lord Howe, ſailed from Graveſend on their voyages.

Yeſterday, two reports were circulated in the city, but neither of them gained any credit: One was, that advice is received of the king's troops having made themſelves maſters of New-York with very little loſs. The other, that the regulars had burnt part of Philadelphia, and had a ſkirmiſh with the provincials there, in which the king's troops had 100 men killed, and the provincials 300.

A letter from Jamaica, dated July 7. ſays, "A great diſpute has happened here between admiral Gayton and ſome of the merchants of this iſland, on account of ſeveral of their veſſels having been taken by the American privateers, for want of a ſufficient force to protect them."

A letter from Barbadoes, dated July 3. ſays, "The armed ſchooner Apollo, of ten guns, has taken, and brought into Carliſle-bay, three American veſſels, viz. a ſnow, and two ſloops from Cape Nichola Mole, where they had delivered cargoes of lumber, &c. The French have ſeveral cruizers in the Weſt Indies, to prevent, as much as poſſible, their veſſels from trading with the Americans."

Letters from Dominica, dated July 30. mention that, a few days ago, orders came there for all ſhips for London, Ireland, Liverpool, Lancaſter, and Briſtol, to get ready for ſailing by the firſt of Auguſt, as a man of war was to ſail with them, to convoy them all the way home; and that two or three ſhips had lately arrived with proviſions, which was a great relief to them, as they were but ſcarce.

Extract of a Letter from the chief Mate of a Weſt-Indiaman, to his Father at Newcaſtle, dated London, Auguſt 19.

"I had the misfortune to be taken by the Yankee privateer, when bound to the head quarters, loaded with rum for the fleet and the army, from Antigua to New-York.—They had taken one three-decker before they took us; ſhe was from Jamaica, with ſugar and rum, for London; and three days after parted with two ſhips, they having orders to make the beſt of their way for Boſton, or Marble-head, or Cape Ann. We ſoon ran them out of ſight with the privateer. We having been eight days on board as priſoners, concerted meaſures to riſe, and take her from them, which we accompliſhed, without lives loſt on either ſide. We went in ſearch of our own ſhips, but fell in with two American privateers, which made us bear up, and make all the ſail we could to get from them; for if they had taken us, we ſhould have expected nothing but death, but we were determined to fight to the laſt man, and would have ſunk her rather than be taken.—We had a fair wind all the way to London, and fetched all the priſoners here with us, which were 25; and of us 14, officers included. After we were maſters, for 20 days and nights we durſt not go off the deck for fear of a revolt from

them. We did not put any in irons, but one, and that was for his impertinence. She is a fine ſloop, mounts nine four-pounders, ſixteen ſwivels, and two cohorns."

Extract of a letter from capt. Douglas, of the London, from Grenada, arrived in the Downs.

"On the 9th of Auguſt I ſpoke with the Tuite from St Croix, who informed me that the Earl of Errol, capt. Bartlett, was taken the 14th of July in lat. 30, 10. long. 61, 30, by two American privateers of 14 ſwivels and ſix guns; the mate of the Earl of Errol was taken on board one of the privateers, and they ſent her with a prize-maſter and twelve hands to America. On the 29th of July the ſnow Tuite was taken by the ſame two privateers; and the mate with eight hands were put on board, with orders to carry her to any port north of the Vineyard, but, after loſing ſight of the privateers, he ſhaped his courſe for England."

A letter from Lancaſter, dated Aug. 31. ſays, "The Portland, capt. Dickinſon, from Grenada and St Kitt's, belonging to this port, on the 7th of July ſailed in company with 25 merchantmen under convoy of the Hind, a 20 gun ſhip, which left them the 16th, in lat. 27. 35. and on the 24th the Portland was taken by the Diamond, captain Chance, belonging to Rhode Iſland, mounting ſix carriage and two ſwivel guns, and 52 men: ſhe took the captain and firſt mate from the Portland, and put on board her the lieutenant of the privateer as prize-maſter, and 32 belonging to the ſhip Jane, of Briſtol, whom they had taken two days before. The privateer then went in chace of ſome other veſſels that were in ſight. In the night Mr Dickinſon, the ſecond mate, took the command of the Portland, and brought her ſafe in here this morning."

A letter from Dover, of Auguſt 30. ſays, "We have been very much alarmed here by a report that the Prince of Wales, a Gravеſend ſloop, in her way to France (hired by ſome gentlemen on a party of pleaſure), fell in with the Hancock American privateer, when a furious engagement enſued, which laſted ſix glaſſes. Night coming on, they parted, and the ſloop got ſafe into St Omer's with little damage, except in her rigging. The captain ſpeaks very highly of the bravery of three of the paſſengers, to whoſe extraordinary courage and conduct he attributes chiefly the ſaving of his veſſel."

The Liberty, Wright, from Jamaica, which ſailed the 17th of June under convoy of the Antelope man of war, is ſafe arrived. She was chaced by two American privateers, but eſcaped them by tacking about till night came on, and in the morning ſaw nothing more of them.

Five veſſels, viz. the St John, from the Leeward Iſlands for Briſtol:——, capt. Cunningham, of Newcaſtle; the Nevis, Coffin, from Nevis to London, with 600 hogſheads of ſugar; the Peter, Canton, from St Vincent's, for Liverpool; and a fifth, name not known, are all taken by an American privateer.

A letter from Gibraltar ſays, that a man of war ſtationed there met with an American veſſel, bound from Philadelphia to Cadiz, loaded with flour and wheat, which ſhe took and brought in there; the cargo was immediately diſpoſed of, which was of great ſervice to the garriſon.

Plymouth, Aug. 31. "Since my laſt arrived at this place the Mary, capt. Holme, from Barbadoes for London; which veſſel is an American, and was taken by a man of war, who carried her into Barbadoes, where ſhe was condemned and ſold as a prize; ſhe was then laden with a cargo of rum and ſugar, and ſent to England. Remain the tranſports and men of war as before.

The Spencer, Groves, from Jamaica, is arrived at Briſtol; ſhe ſailed the 3d of July, and joined the Boreas frigate, who had three tranſports under convoy, with a regiment on board, for New-York: juſt before they made the Havannah they loſt convoy of one of the tranſports, and ſaw nothing of her after. Capt. Groves parted with the frigate the 23d of July, in about lat. 31.

Yeſterday the wind coming round to the N. E. all the tranſports for America, with the other outward-bound ſhips, to the number of about 80, ſailed out of the Downs, and, as the wind continues fair, it is thought will ſoon be clear of the channel.

The Yankee privateer was condemned laſt Wedneſday at Doctors Commons, as a legal prize to the captors.

The St George merchantman, taken ſome time ago in the channel, on ſuſpi-

cion of carrying on an illegal trade with America, was, at the ſame time, ordered to be reſtored to her owners.

Yeſterday capt. Hope, nephew to the earl of Hopetoun, and who brought over the laſt accounts from America, attended the levee at St James's and had a conference with the king.

Wedneſday both houſes of parliament met at Weſtminſter, purſuant to their laſt prorogation, and by virtue of his majeſty's commiſſion, were further prorogued to the 15th of October next.

It is generally thought the affairs of the Eaſt-India company will be taken up by parliament this ſeſſion, particularly the diſputes amongſt the council at Bengal. In a year or two the company's charter expires, when we hear it is under conſideration to declare the company free, they paying a duty, after the manner of the Daniſh Eaſt-India company, of eight per cent. If this ſhould be the caſe, the *plunder in the Eaſt* will repay government their failure of *taxation in the Weſt*.

The Dolphin man war, which is arrived at Portſmouth from Bombay, has been out ſix years; ſhe has not brought home above thirty of the hands which ſhe took out, all the reſt being dead or run from the ſhip, and they were obliged to hire Laſcars to help to navigate her home.

There are only the following Eaſt-India ſhips to arrive this year, which are daily expected, viz. the Hampſhire, capt. Turnbull, from Bencoolen; the Talbot, capt. Snow; and the Grenville, capt. Abercromby, both from Bombay.

A letter from Plymouth-dock, dated Sept. 1. ſays, "We have nothing new here, only that the Southampton and Glory, two 32 gun frigates, are ordered for commiſſion, but we do not hear who are appointed to command them as yet; as ſoon as they ſail, we ſhall be left without a frigate or ſloop in this harbour.—His majeſty's ſhip Glaſgow is almoſt recovered of the wound ſhe received from Hopkins, and will ſoon be ready to give or take another drubbing.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH, SEPTEMBER 12.

Extract of a letter from an officer in the army, to his friend in Edinburgh, dated July 13. Camp at St John's Fort, Canada.

"We have heard ſince, that a much greater number of the rebels were killed on the 8th of June at the Three Rivers, than came to our knowledge when I wrote you laſt. They are now totally extirpated out of Canada. I was witneſs, two days ago, to St John's, as well as all the other forts in this country, being in flames, which was performed by the rebels before they evacuated them. The grenadiers, light infantry, and 24th battalion are all encamped at St John's. The reſt of the army are cantoned at Montreal, Chamblee, and along the river Sorrel. Preparations are going on with the utmoſt expedition in building batteaux to carry the army acroſs lake Champlain, in order to reduce Crown Point, which the rebels have at preſent in their poſſeſſion. We expect in a few weeks to have every thing ready for our expedition acroſs the lakes. Some of the rebel deſerters inform us, that they are much diſtreſſed with ſickneſs, and great confuſion prevails amongſt them. On the contrary, our army are in the greateſt ſpirits. All of them, to a man, have the greateſt reſolution againſt the provincials. We hear that gen. Howe has made good his landing at New-York, and that he has been ſucceſsful; but you muſt hear the news from that ſide of the country much ſooner, and with greater certainty."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman juſt arrived from Virginia, dated Whitehaven, Sept. 6. to his friend here.

"I arrived here this morning in Mr Fleming's ſhip, after a paſſage of four weeks and two days from the Cape. Nothing but misfortune purſued us from the time you went away. The week following, on the 9th day of July, we were driven from Guin's Iſland by cannon, which killed one man on board the Dunmore, and took the arm off another. From thence we went up the bay, and there met with a ſtorm, in which we had like to have periſhed on board the brig. Mr Parker and Mr Ingram were blown on the eaſtern ſhore, and made priſoners.—The fleet went on to Potamack; and after getting watered, by the Roebuck and two tranſports going up into the freſh part of the river, all the veſſels that could go to ſea were ordered to ſome place of peace. Many were burnt; among the reſt, the brig we ſtaid in. Some went to Auguſtine with the Otter, ſome to Bermudas, and ſome to the Weſt Indies. Mr Anthony Roxburgh went with Mr Archibald Brown to Antigua."

Extract of a Letter from London, Sept. 7.

"The account of the engagement and defeat of the provincials at Crown Point [P. 377.] gains little credit among the merchants here—The time when it is ſaid to happen is much too early for our forces to have got ready their batteaux for croſſing the lakes, eſpecially when it is conſidered that they had to conſtruct every one of them in a manner; for even thoſe that went out ready made, would be to drag many miles over land.

"I have this moment heard, that a veſſel is arrived from Virginia, which brings advice, that a hurricane had diſperſed and deſtroyed all lord Dunmore's fleet, which obliged his few troops, and friends to government, to go on ſhore, where the rebels took the advantage of their diſtreſs, and took them all priſoners. I hear lord Dunmore has, ſome how or other, made his eſcape. A letter from Canada mentions, the army were preparing faſt to croſs the lakes, and that the Indians were flocking in from all quarters.—I juſt hear, that lord Dunmore has gone to St Auguſtine."

Extract of a letter from Newcaſtle, Sept. 7.

"Sunday morning laſt, a large ſmuggling veſſel, mounting 12 guns, and full of men, appeared off Tynmouth bar, where ſhe lay to for ſome time, in ſight of his majeſty's ſloop Cormorant of 20 guns, then in the harbour of Shields. This ſmuggler has braved all the cuſtom-houſe cutters for ſome time paſt along the coaſt; and always approaches cloſe to the mouths of harbours.---The Cormorant ſloop was ſent down to look after her."

Extract of a letter from Kelſo, Sept. 7.

"Our races began here this week. Tueſday's race for fifty pounds, actual hunters, was won by Mr Green's grey gelding, beating eight other horſes. On Wedneſday the duke of Roxburgh's filly beat Mr Scott of Galla's filly for fifty guineas. Same day, lord Eglintoun's Blemiſh beat two mares. Thurſday a horſe from Yorkſhire beat Mr Buſby's brown filly and two others.---The company was not ſo numerous as uſual."

Extract of a letter from Perth, Sept. 9.

"The northern circuit was opened here, on Thurſday the 5th curt. by lord Auchinleck.---Upon the 6th, Charles Chriſtieſon, in Auchrenny, accuſed of the murder of John Brown, taylor in Montroſe; and Alexander Craigie, butcher in Weſter Caprith, for theft, were both fugitate for not appearing to ſtand trial.

"Upon the 7th, came on the trial of John Fyſe, lieutenant in his majeſty's marine forces, for the murder of James Taylor, flax-dreſſer in Perth. The trial began at eight in the morning, and at four in the afternoon the jury were incloſed; and at ſeven, returned a verdict finding the libel proven; but further, finding it proven, that, at the time of committing the crime, and for a conſiderable time before, the panel was *inſane*. The judge found, that the panel was not an object of puniſhment; and, therefore, aſſoilzied him *ſimpliciter*: But ordained him to be carried back to priſon, till his friends ſhould find ſecurity to take the cuſtody of his perſon, and place him under ſuch confinement, that he may be prevented from committing other crimes or outrages in time coming."

Laſt week, the Mariſchal College and Univerſity of Aberdeen conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine on Mr William Mowat, ſurgeon of the Valentine, in the Eaſt India Company's ſervice

Yeſterday, Anne Mackie or Mather (who was condemned by the high court of juſticiary for the crime of murdering her baſtard child [P. 223.]), was executed in the Graſs-market, purſuant to her ſentence. She was attended by the rev. Mr Daniel M'Queen, and Mr Scott ſeceding miniſter at Muſſelburgh, and behaved in a very penitent manner.

Yeſterday was committed to the tolbooth, by warrant of the ſheriff, Robert Macmichen, gardener to Mr Allan of Redford, on ſuſpicion of being guilty of, or acceſſory to, the ſeveral robberies which have of late been committed in the neighbourhood of this city; and particularly for a robbery committed upon Mr Adam Innes at Bonella, on the evening of Wedneſday the 8th ult.

Same day, Thomas Clegg, a deſerter from the 70th regiment, at preſent ſtationed in the Caſtle of Edinburgh, was committed to the tolbooth, by warrant of the ſheriff, likewiſe on ſuſpicion of being concerned in theſe robberies, particularly the one committed near Libberton on Wedneſday evening the 28th ult. When Clegg was firſt examined, he informed the ſheriff that he had been in company with a young man, alſo a deſerter, who had acknowledged to him, that he was the perſon guilty of the above robbery, and ſhewed him the watch he had taken on the above occa-

ſion. This watch Clegg deſcribed; which anſwering pretty nearly with the deſcription given by the gentleman himſelf, the ſheriff, with his wonted activity and regard for the police of the county, immediately diſpatched Clegg, under the charge of ſome ſoldiers, and one of his own officers, in a poſt-chaiſe and four, to Hawick, in order to apprehend the deſerter informed againſt, Clegg having told he was gone there to ſee his friends. The young man was accordingly there apprehended, and brought to town early Tueſday morning. Upon his examination, however, no ſuſpicious circumſtances came out againſt him; but, on the contrary, there appeared reaſon to ſuſpect that Clegg himſelf was the guilty perſon.

Notwithſtanding the ſtrong ſuſpicions which appeared againſt theſe two men of their having committed, or been acceſſary to, the late robberies which have happened about this place, yet we are aſſured, from the very beſt authority, there is reaſon to ſuſpect, that theſe robberies may have been committed by others, and on that account the ſheriff, with his uſual vigilance, is carrying on farther ſtrict inquiries thereanent.

Yeſterday the proclamation requiring paſſes formerly granted to ſhips and veſſels trading in the way of cruizers belonging to the government's ſervice on the coaſt of Barbary, to be returned into the office of the admiralty of Great Britain, and other paſſes of different forms to be iſſued, was read at the Croſs with the uſual formalities.

The following character of *David Hume*, Eſq; [P. 320.] appeared in the London Chronicle of September 5.

"No modern has been more read, or has commanded a larger ſhare of the public approbation than the late Mr Hume.

"If he was not the greateſt philoſopher, he poſſeſſed at leaſt the ſingular merit of having put into motion more philoſophical genius than any other writer of his time: and his moſt violent opponents derived perhaps from the merit of their adverſary their beſt pretentions to literary fame. But the region of metaphyſics he ſoon looked through, and abandoned. The laurels he chiefly valued were gathered in another ſoil. In an age and country abounding with hiſtorians, he maintained a diſtinguiſhed, and almoſt unrivalled pre-eminence; and his reputation as an hiſtorian almoſt eclipſes that of the philoſopher.

"In both lines, after ages will extol and admire *the author*. His contemporaries loved *the man*. They beheld in his character the moſt agreeable contradictions: The virtues of humanity unſhaken by the moſt abſolute ſcepticiſm: The moral duties of *this life* flouriſhing under a total diſregard of *another*: and even the graces and temper of a *Chriſtian*, in an avowed enemy of the Chriſtian faith."

Aberdeen, Aug. 29. 1776.

BIRTH.

—. At Kenſington, the counteſs of Roſeberry, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

Aug. 12. At Rome, Bennet Veterani, a cardinal deacon, and prefect of the congregation of the index of the rites and of the Concilium. He was created a cardinal by Clement XIII. in September 1766.

16. At Kelſo, Sir Robert Kerr, Bart.—The title deſcends to William Carr, Eſq; of Etall, in the county of Northumberland, now Sir William Carr, Bart. by patent bearing date July 31. 1637, Nova Scotia.

PRICES of GRAIN at HADDINGTON, SEPT. 6.

	First.		Second.		Third.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wheat,	17	6	16	0	15	0
Bear,	14	9	13	6	12	10
Oats,	13	0	11	0	9	6
Peaſe,	11	0	10	6	9	0

To our CORRESPONDENTS.

The paper reſpecting the *Dumfries Infirmary* is too long to have a place in the body of the Magazine.—If for the Cover, let us be informed.

The *Reply* to NATATOR we neither think very intelligible, nor wrote with the fair author's uſual ſpirit.

The *Tradeſman*'s complaint is perhaps too juſt, but ill expreſſed. When we have time to bruſh it up, and room for it, it ſhall appear.

However true it may be, it would require time and trouble to abridge the ſtory of the *Beggar* and lick it into form.

The poem in imitation of *Oſſian* we ſhall examine with attention.

That on *Summer* is partly *blank*, partly *rhime*, and frequently forc'd meaſure.

BENEVOLENCE means well, but his Muſe ſeems diſtreſs'd for expreſſion.

The Dialogue betwixt Charlie and Sandy is a *doggrel dialogue*.

W. P.'s pieces came too late.